SANDWELL
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AN EDITION OF THE SANDWELL AND GREAT BARR CHRONICLE

Win tickets to the Clothes Show Live – see page 28

For the latest on the entertainment scene – see The Pulse: starts page 35

Strikers aim to impress Rooney – see Sport: starts page 66

THIRD OF CAMERAS ARE FAKE

MORE than one in three speed cameras in Sandwell is a dummy and does not catch speeding drivers.

Across the region as a whole, nearly a third of speed cameras are fakes.

Official police figures show that out of 304 speed cameras in the Black Country, Birmingham, Coventry and Solihull there are 89 which are "effectively housings".

Chief Constable Chris Sims said those cameras have "no enforcement activity" and added: "They represent sites where road engineering or other changes have removed the need to enforce."

sandwellchronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

The 304 speed cameras are divided into red, amber, green and white sites depending on the number of injuries over three years and the number of offences detected by a camera.

In the West Midlands Sandwell has the largest number of dummy "white sites" with 23 out of 57 cameras. Walsall has 18 dummies out of 48 cameras while in Dudley it is 15 out of 40. Wolverhampton has just four out of 40 but also has 26 cameras at "green" sites, which are classed as the least dangerous areas.

Last month it was revealed that cameras will be left unrepaired due to drastic spending cuts.

West Midlands Police has to cut £125 million off its budget over the next four years.

Peter Francis, West Midlands Road Safety Partnership programme manager, said in a report that repairing cameras and equipment damaged by vandals "may not be possible".

Dangerous

The cost of wet film processing has been increasing and councils cannot afford to upgrade to digital.

Mr Sims added: "Not all camera sites are in operation at the same time. We prioritise camera resources among the existing fixed speed and mobile camera sites, ensuring that cameras are deployed to the areas where they are most needed."

Seventeen attacks on speed cameras were recorded last year.

Roads are patched up for winter

THE HARSH winter caused more than half a million pounds worth of damage to the borough's roads.

Roads across Sandwell, as well as the rest of the country, were badly affected by potholes as frost thawed after several icy weeks where the temperature plunged to record levels.

Because of the nationwide crisis the Government made available £100 million for road repairs – and Sandwell Council received a £200,000 share, adding another £192,727 from its own finances to fund the permanent patching of the carriageways.

The programme of works has now been completed – just in time for the next winter period.

Cabinet member for safer neighbourhoods, Councillor Derek Rowley said: "The last two winters have been particularly bad weather-wise. The frost had a terrible impact on the state of roads right across the country.

Finances

"It was welcoming to get the Government cash and the council dipped into its own finances to top up the money to enable the necessary work to go-ahead. We had already spent a lot of money carrying out emergency repairs during the winter.

"The bottom line was that we had to make our roads as safe as we could. As a result this work has been carried out over the summer to ensure that our highways are in as good a condition as we could get them."

Woman plunges from a high-rise

A WOMAN was fighting for her life on Tuesday after falling eight storeys from a high-rise block of flats in West Bromwich.

It happened at Briarley House in Beacon View Road at around 5pm on Monday.

The woman, believed to be in her 20s, was taken to Sandwell Hospital where she was in a serious condition.

Police cordoned off an area at the entrance to the flats for more than an hour, while officers investigated the scene.

Dean's potential cup date in town

FORMER Premier League striker Dean Windass could make an appearance in Tipton on Saturday as Bustleholme FC continue their FA Vase adventure.

Windass, who called time on his professional career last season after scoring 200 league goals for Middlesbrough, Hull City and Bradford City, recently turned out for Northern Counties East League side Barton Town Old Boys – Bustleholme's opponents this weekend.

If television commitments allow Windass will be attempting to halt Bustleholme's impressive run so far in the competition, which has included victories over Darlaston Town and Wolves Casuals.

A place in the third round awaits the winners and the match will kick off at the Tipton Sports Academy is 3pm. It costs £4 for adults and children accompanying paying adults get in free.

Council sign £650m deal to transform waste collection

CONTRACTS have finally been exchanged on a £650 million deal for a private company to take over bin collections in Sandwell.

Bosses from Serco met with Sandwell Council officers on Monday, paving the way for the company to take over collections from next Monday.

The 25-year partnership will see all 136 binmen, including those who took strike action, have their employment transferred to Serco. No jobs will be lost.

The council say the partnership will improve bin collection services while increasing the number of materials residents are able to recycle.

The state-of-the-art service will significantly reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill and see non-recyclable waste sent to the Staffordshire Energy-from-Waste plant where it will generate renewable energy.

Councillor Derek Rowley, cabinet member for safer neighbourhoods, said the contract signing was great news for Sandwell residents.

"This partnership allows us to provide a first class service to the people of Sandwell," he said. "When fully operational, it will be among the very best in the country and I'm confident people across the borough will enjoy its benefits."

Cllr Steve Eling, deputy leader and cabinet member for strategic resourses, also praised the partnership which he said would help Sandwell Council save money.

"This is excellent news not only because of the service it will provide, but also for the millions of pounds in financial penalties it will help the council save by not sending so much waste to landfill and reaching Government recycling targets," he said.

Serco was announced as the preferred bidder for the contract in August and managing director Mike Boult said he was delighted with the signing of the contracts.

Significant

"There has already been a significant amount of work carried out leading up to this day, in terms of the mobilisation of this major contract," he said.

"I am particularly encouraged to see how quickly the partnership has come together and we are already seeing signs of an excellent relationship developing.

"I am confident that the people of Sandwell will soon be benefiting from a range of new enhanced services."

Weekly residual waste collections will not be affected by the new contract and residents will not face 'pay as you throw' style charges.

Garden waste collections will continue to operate on a fortnightly basis however the service will be extended to run all year round.

Meanwhile, a single weekly collection day for both rubbish and recycling will be introduced along with a food recycling service.

Councillor Geoff Lewis is pictured at the refurbished Wednesbury War Memorial Garden

New memorial is location for remembrance

SERVICES to mark Remembrance Day will be held at venues across Sandwell this Sunday.

Oldbury, West Bromwich, Rowley Regis, Smethwick, Tipton and Wednesbury are all hosting poignant ceremonies to remember those lost in war.

Wednesbury Memorial Gardens on Walsall Street looks sure to attract a good crowd following its recent refurbishment, which has seen 1,060 names of local soldiers imprinted on four new plinths.

The work was the culmination of five years' of lobbying and fundraising from the Wednesbury War Memorial Campaign Group and their spokesperson Fred Barnfield said the results were fantastic.

"They've done a marvellous job and people will have a pleasant surprise when they come and see it on Sunday," he said. "Provision has been made on the plinths for more names to be put on as and when they're discovered. We're hoping and expecting more people to get in touch with us."

Wednesbury councillor Geoff Lewis will lay a reef on behalf of the mayor at Wednesbury.

He said: "I'm hopeful on an exceptional turnout and it should be a very poignant service. A wonderful job has been undertaken by everyone to get the memorial looking how it is."

Mayor of Sandwell, Councillor Pauline Hinton, will lead a service at Oldbury War Memorial in Oldbury Town Centre. Deputy mayor, Councillor Joyce Underhill, will attend the ceremony at West Bromwich War Memorial, Dartmouth Park.

Hall

Other services will be held at Rowley Regis War Memorial in Powke Lane Cemetery; Smethwick War Memorial at the Council House in High Street; and at Tipton War Memorial in Victoria Park, Tipton.

All services take place at 10.45am, while later in the day there be a Festival of Remembrance Service at West Bromwich Town Hall, starting 7.30pm, which the mayor will also attend.

Cllr Mrs Hinton said: "It is important that we all remember those that went to the wars and never came back. We all owe our liberties and freedom to those ordinary men and women who gave their all for the country."

The Festival of Remembrance will include music by Black Country Brass and Eaton Valley Primary School choir, together with choirs from the Venture Corps Air Cadets and Boys' Brigade.

There will also be items from organist Paul Evans and Dave Storey from the West Bromwich Operatic Society.

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Prince at academy

THE Earl of Wessex, Prince Edward, is due to lead the remembrance service at Great Barr's Q3 Academy as part of its official opening today (Thursday).

The ceremony in the garden of remembrance at the new school will be attended by staff and students as well as invited guests and war veterans.

The £30 million school, in Wilderness Lane first opened its doors in April this year, replacing the former Dartmouth High School.

Athletes urged to sign up

ATHLETES are being urged to start training for Sandwell Leisure Trust's 2011 aquathon.

Plans to stage the event in March, are well under way. Sandwell Leisure Trust held the borough's first aquathon in February and it proved so successful that it has been decided to hold it again.

The event will take place at Tipton Leisure Centre and in Victoria Park on Sunday, March 6. Entry will cost £5 for adults and £2 for under 16s.

An aquathon combines a swim with a run. Next year's event is being supported by Triathlon England who have four free training days in the run-up to March, on November 28, January 9 and 30, and on February 27. The event is being supported by Oldbury Swimming and Triathlon Club who hold training sessions on Wednesday evenings at Tipton Swimming Centre. To register online visit www.entrycentral.com or call Lisa Rashid on 0121 506 4980.

Ghost hunters return

THE ghosts will be on the prowl again in Smethwick later this month following a sell-out first charity fright night.

A ghost night on November 19 has already sold-out. Because of the interest shown another charity ghost-night is being held on November 27.

The charity ghost hunt, which will be raising money for Children In Need, is being held at Smethwick Swimming Centre in Thimblemill Road. The public will have the chance to tour the underground subway system beneath the pool, which over the years has been an air raid shelter and a morgue.

Ghost hunters will conduct experiments and investigations into the paranormal activity.

The cost is £20 per person and it is for over 18s only. All proceeds will go to Children in Need. Contact Smethwick Swimming Centre for details.

Council face more than 100 appeals

MORE than 100 appeals are pending less than two months before 1,400 staff at Sandwell Council will see wages slashed under a shake-up.

New pay structures were brought in on January 1 this year under the single status agreement.

However, changes to wage packets were deferred for the 1,400 people set to lose out, whose salaries will now be cut from next January.

All appeals against the changes were due to be dealt with by the end of December – but the process now looks likely to overrun, with 140 outstanding. It is not clear what will happen to those whose appeals have not been dealt with by the end of the year.

Each is set to lose an average of £1,400 from their annual wage packet.

A total of 385 appeals have been upheld of the 884 dealt with over the last 11 months, following the introduction of single status, which saw each council job re-evaluated.

The new agreement saw existing pay grades replaced by 10 new pay bands and new terms and conditions. A total of 5,000 workers saw pay increase by an average of £820 a year with 4,400 seeing no change and 1,400 losing an average of £1,400 a year.

Some 2,000 of the council's 10,500 staff – excluding teachers – announced they would contest new wage bracket.

Ongoing

Sandwell cabinet member Councillor Mahboob Hussain said: "The appeals process is ongoing, as it was planned to take place a year to complete."

Binmen in Sandwell went on strike and implemented a work to rule after it was revealed that they would lose £2,900 under the scheme.

The service will be taken over by private company Serco later this month and wage negotiations are still ongoing.

Tragedy could not have been predicted or prevented, says report

Lessons are learned after Stacey murder

sandwellchronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

THE murder of nine-year-old Black Country schoolgirl Stacey Lawrence could not have been foreseen or prevented, a serious case review has concluded.

Sandwell Safeguarding Children Board launched the review after the child from West Bromwich was strangled and sexually assaulted by her mother's lorry driver fiance Darren Walker in August last year.

The review has ruled there were no concerns about Stacey, who lived in Bagnall Street, or other children in the family, but said lessons could be learned from the tragedy.

The youngster's body was found in the cab of a white Spar lorry parked in a lay-by in Warmington, Northants, on August 29 last year.

She had been on a delivery run with her mother's fiance Darren Walker, 40, of Hickman Road, Bilston, whose body was found hanging from a tree in nearby woodland. An inquest this year ruled she had been unlawfully killed.

Stacey Lawrence

The review concluded the death was neither predictable nor preventable, however, the process of the serious case review has highlighted lessons that can be learned by all the agencies involved.

Records

Avriel Reader, chairman of the board, said: "This was a tragedy for the child and of course for her family.

"There is nothing to suggest it could have been foreseen or prevented, however, that does not mean we cannot learn lessons.

"The girl was not known to children's social care. Agencies which did know of her, including school and healthcare described her as happy and settled.

"Serious case reviews are not about finding someone to blame. This is about constantly improving processes to safeguard vulnerable children and families."

Ms Reader added the review had raised issues of both local and national relevance, highlighting a particular type of situation for families involved in repeated moves around the country.

The family had moved several times before settling in Sandwell in 2007 and schools did experience some difficulties getting hold of previous records. A recommendation was made in respect of this to Education Secretary Michael Gove.

She said: "General issues were identified in the course of this investigation where practice could be improved."

Seminar boost

Nicholas Hanney, chairman of the Sandwell ADHD support group, and centre manager Tonia Flannagan

ORGANISERS of a support group for people who suffer from ADHD are celebrating after picking up a £10,000 grant to run seminars with doctors and specialists.

Sufferers of ADHD – attention deficit hyperactivity disorder – struggle to concentrate and suffer from hyperactivity and it is believed that up to five per cent of children suffer from the condition.

Nicholas Hanney, chairman of Sandwell ADHD, said that the cash injection from The Big Lottery Fund, will enable the group to provide people with the specialist advice they need.

Play

He said: "We give as much advice as possible and are open a couple of days a week when children can come and play while parents have a break."

Based in Smethwick, the group is run from the St Alban's Community Centre where it offers respite and advice.

Warning over town centre traffic jams

MOTORISTS are being warned there could be big delays when a temporary traffic management system is introduced in West Bromwich town centre today (Thursday).

It is set to last for 12 days while work is carried out on the new £77 million Sandwell College.

The traffic management system will affect the West Bromwich Ringway and Spon Lane. A 'No Right Turn' will be introduced from West Bromwich Ringway into Spon Lane. While the work is carried out traffic will be diverted via West Bromwich Ringway, High Street, A4031 Trinity Way, A 4182 Kelvin Way and Spon Lane.

Buses that normally leave the bus station via West Bromwich Ringway and turn right into Spon Lane, will be diverted clockwise around the town centre. Drivers will not be allowed to travel in a north-west direction in the clockwise carriageway of the ringway between the signal controlled junctions with Spon Lane and the Netto car park access.

The system is to allow work to take place safely on the front of the new Sandwell College building.

Endangered big cat comes in from the cold

DUDLEY Zoo has ticked it's Czech list to fly a rare snow leopard out of Eastern Europe for a new life in the Black Country.

The female Nanga arrived in the UK from Usti Nad Labem Zoo in the Czech Republic last week as part of an international conservation programme for this highly endangered species.

Dudley Zoo registrar Dr David Beeston said: "Due to the Czech Republic's intensely cold winters airlines will not fly livestock to the UK after the first week in November, so when the transfer was confirmed we were delighted that all the paperwork went through in time for us to beat the no flights deadline."

Following quarantine 15-month-old Nanga will be joined next year by a male from Banham Zoo in Norfolk to start the breeding project.

Dr Beeston added: "Snow leopards are graded as critically endangered, as there are thought to be only about 3,000 in the wild.

Bombs

"The outbreak of war in Afghanistan led to the use of cluster bombs on mountain ranges inhabited by snow leopards, which put them in great danger."

Snow leopards (Uncia uncia) are native to South and Central Asia living between 3,000 and 5,000 feet above sea water in rocky mountain ranges.

Sale from noon

A SALE is being held at St Alban's Community Centre in Smethwick on Saturday from noon to 3pm, organised by St Alban's Community Association.

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Waste plant is aiming to expand

A PLANT processing waste electrical equipment in Sandwell is set to create jobs if its plans to expand are approved.

Proposals will go before planning chiefs at Sandwell Council to allow workers to recycle parts from household white goods as well as processing scrap in Parsonage Street, Oldbury.

The application has come in from Enablelink Ltd, based in Budden Road, Coseley, to expand their existing business and if the move goes to plan a further eight jobs could be created within six months.

Extra

Enablelink currently have six full-time staff on site and offload up to 250 tons of scrap over a five-day week over their Coseley and Oldbury sites.

Director Burt Stanley said getting permission to handle scrap including fridge freezer motors, microwave components and fridge parts could see the firm process an extra 100 tons a week.

He added: "The application is in to change the use on the site so we can process electrical goods. It will definitely increase our productivity but it will take time to see how it affects our turnover.

"We've got six people working there at the moment, and this would create eight jobs which could increase after six to eight months"

Sports stars launch store

ENGLAND sporting heroes Darren Gough and Austin Healey are heading to the West Midlands – and will be showing off their skills at the launch of a new sport superstore.

Cricket ace Gough and rugby star Healey will go head to head in a series of challenges to help officially launch the new Decathlon store in Wednesbury on Saturday, November 20.

The duo, who have also hit the headlines for their exploits on Strictly Come Dancing, will do a 'Decathlon' of events against each other in a Superstars style game.

Range

Events will include sports from within the Decathlon range, including football, rugby, archery and cricket.

Lucky sport enthusiasts could be joining in the fun as team-mates of the international icons, as each is looking to recruit two other players for their side.

Anyone wishing to play should email superstars@htpr.com with the lucky selected players each also receiving a goody bag of sports merchandise from the store.

Decathlon manager Anthony Kirkwood is looking forward to the event and believes that the store, which is near Juntion 9 of the M6, could not have a more fitting opening.

Remembrance walk

SANDWELL Ramblers' walk in Sandwell Valley on Sunday will incorporate a Remembrance Sunday service.

The ramblers wil meet in the Sandwell Park Farm car park at 9.15am for the gentle eight and a half mile walk led by John Scott.

For further details contact (0121) 357 1079.

Facebook boosts reunion

MORE than 250 people are to attend Churchfield's School Reunion this Saturday, with ex-pupils jetting in from Australia for the event.

Organiser Sandra Meredith was shocked by the response to the social networking Facebook website 'Churchfield's Reunion' and the invite has been extended to all former pupils because of the demand.

The school, which was at Church Vale, West Bromwich has been demolished and new homes are being built on the site.

Sandra said: "We have the first prefect from 1959 coming, some from the last intake who were dispersed when the school closed, a few teachers and ex-pupils from France and Australia."

Commemorate

A campaign for a monument to commemorate the school at the site is also under way.

The reunion will be held at the Conference Suite, Thomas Street, West Bromwich on Saturday, November 13.

Shoppers quizzed on death of lorry driver

DETECTIVES investigating the death of a Polish lorry driver whose body was found at the roadside in Dudley have quizzed shoppers in a fresh appeal for information.

Police stopped shoppers at Sainsbury's in Freeth Street, Oldbury, for eight hours.

One of the last sightings of the as-yet unnamed Polish driver was in Oldbury town centre.

West Midlands police officers spoke to Sainsbury's shoppers at the weekend – exactly a week after the 57-year-old HGV driver was last seen.

Jobs fear at building firm Rok

BUILDING firm Rok went into administration on Monday, putting 2,000 jobs in jeopardy and throwing a West Bromwich housing development into crisis.

Around 130 jobs could go in the West Midlands if no buyer can be found for the firm.

Around 100 workers are based in Birmingham's Jewellery Quarter, which is handling the £17 million Bagnall Street housing development.

More than 100 affordable homes are to be built on the former industrial site in West Bromwich.

Sandwell Council confirmed the company's collapse would mean delays.

Councillor Simon Hackett, cabinet member for housing, said: "This is bad news for Rok and all its employees and it will also affect the start of the new housing scheme."

Rok was building the homes for Midland Heart – the region's biggest housing association – with backing from Sandwell Council and the Government's Homes and Communities Agency.

Continue

Cllr Hackett added: "We will continue to work positively with Midland Heart and the HCA, which is providing funding towards the new affordable homes, to ensure that the scheme can continue with another builder as soon as possible."

Rok also has 30 staff based at a base in Stafford.

It comes months after Rok revealed big losses and financial problems in its plumbing division. The firm reported half-year losses of £3.8m, shortly after accountants BDO found serious failings at its plumbing, heating and electrical business.

A spokesman for Exeter-based Rok said accountants from PwC were due to be appointed as administrators for the firm on Monday . Rok's shares have been suspended on the Stock Exchange.

Public enemy will face long jail term

A DANGEROUS armed robber from Oldbury could be facing life behind bars.

Craig Hickinbottom, once one of the country's most wanted men, was arrested at gunpoint seconds after he sped away from surveillance officers who were hunting him after he fled a bail hostel.

The stolen Vauxhall Corsa collided with police cars and crashed into a fence before his passenger Dean Isitt, another convicted armed robber, fled with a shotgun.

It took a jury at Wolverhampton Crown Court took less than three hours on Friday to convict them of firearms charges.

Protection

Judge Martin Walsh told Hickinbottom, aged 28, of no fixed address, and Isitt, 31, of Waterfall Lane, Rowley Regis, that he was considering jailing them indefinitely "for public protection" when they are sentenced on November 26.

They along with passenger Conor Cox, 18, who also had a balaclava, were found guilty of having the shotgun in the car along with with possession of the stolen Corsa and its false number plates. Hickinbottom was convicted of dangerous driving.

Cox, who has no serious previous convictions, faces a minimum five year sentence.

All three were remanded in custody.

Hickinbottom's trial saw a heavily armed police escort bring his prison van in and out of the city every day in an unprecendented security operation for Wolverhampton.

Officers with machine-guns were been stationed on the city's Bilston Street island and outside Wolverhampton Crown Court, stopping motorists and pedestrians while the convoy arrived and left every day on its way to the maximum security Woodhill prison in Milton Keynes.

At least eight armed officers were stationed inside the court, three on permanent guard outside courtroom number seven, where members of the public and even barristers have been frisked before being allowed in. In the dock, Hickinbottom and his two co-defendants have been flanked by eight security officers.

Police were taking no chances after Hickinbottom was dramatically sprung by men armed with a handgun and a baseball bat from a secure van just 400 yards from Blakenhurst Prison in 2006 when he was being transported from Redditch Magistrates' Court.

Police launched a high-profile search for him which spread nationwide and all ports were put on alert.

Hickinbottom was serving a five-year term for armed robberies in Kingswinford and Stourbridge and was due to be released within weeks.

Background – see page 10

Bid to extend the Metro to Merry Hill is 'not practical'

AN extension of the Midland Metro through the Black Country using former freight lines is unrealisti" and may not be delivered by 2026, says a damming report.

Inspectors who approved the Black Country Joint Core Strategy – a multimillion pound plan to provide 60,000 new homes and to reinvent Sandwell as an administration centre attracting office jobs – said it was "not practical" to extend the Midland Metro service from Wednesbury to Stourbridge, which would link the network to the Merry Hill Shopping Centre.

The Coalition Government has given backing to the idea of councils raising the £289 million they need for the Metro extension by using Tax Increment Financing. That would allow them to borrow the money based on the business rates they would eventually be able to collect because of the jobs the intended scheme would create.

But in their report planning inspectors Nigel Payne and Vincent Maher said: "The reinstatement of the Walsall to Stourbridge line for freight services is a national priority, fully supported by the industry to provide much-needed additional capacity on the congested West Midlands network. However, it is not currently practical or viable to also introduce passenger rail services on this line and therefore unrealistic for the joint core strategy to include this long term aspiration in its transport proposals for the plan period, no matter how desirable. "

Author reveals inspirations

TV screenwriter and author Jed Mercurio with readers who attended to hear his talk at Cradley Heath Library

A RENOWNED author and screenwriter fascinated audiences in Sandwell with two talks in libraries last week.

Jed Mercurio, from Cannock, visited Cradley Heath and Stone Cross libraries to regale readers with anecdotes from his successful television writing career.

His TV credits include The Grimleys, Cardiac Arrest, Invasion Earth and Frankenstein, while a book penned by Mercurio – Bodies – was made into a Bafta-nominated BBC television series.

The writer revealed how he drew upon his own life experiences at school, in the RAF and working as a junior hospital doctor in Birmingham, to help create his work.

Supervisor at Cradley Heath Library, Jonathan Floyd, said: "Jed was excellent and very down to earth. He was due to shoot a new television series which was supposed to be starting on the day he gave the talks but he postponed that for us, so we felt quite privileged!"

Remand in gunfire case

A BIRMINGHAM man has appeared in court after two men were shot at a Smethwick pub.

Joel Cole, aged 27, of Lee Bank, Five Ways, Birmingham, appeared before city magistrates to face one charge of possession of a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence . He was remanded in custody until February 8.

The charge relates to a shooting at the Vietnam Bar in Smethwick on October 3 when two men were injured.

Murder charge man in court

A 38-year-old man charged with the murder of Michelle Stonall and remanded in custody at Birmingham Magistrates court was due to appear agaiin this week at Birmingham Crown Court.

Michelle Stonall, a 34-year-old from Kingstanding was found dead in Sheldon Country Park at around 12.45pm on Saturday, October 30.

The post mortem confirmed that she died as a result of strangulation.

Venue change for choir gig

WARLEY Male Choir will be performing their annual Concert at Quinton Methodist Church on November 26 and 27 at 7pm.

The venue has been relocated from the Barlow Theatre and all tickets previously sold will be honoured on both nights.

Special guest is Ralph Allin, a leading jazz violinist. For further information contact Mr Keri Morgan (0121) 544 6695.

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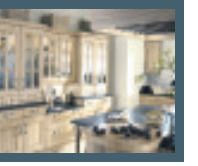

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Gang of thieves is facing jail

FIVE Polish immigrants are facing jail after they were found guilty of being part of a gang of pick-pockets who targeted Black Country bus passengers.

They slashed handbags to steal purses from vulnerable and elderly women passengers for nine months.

An 85-year-old had £1,260 removed from accounts within half an hour of debit cards being stolen. Wolverhampton Crown Court heard victims, aged between 17 and 85, had purses snatched or bags cut open. They realised theft had taken place later.

West Bromwich bus station was the focal point for the five, who struck six times between January 1 and October 2, 2009, on the 87, 74, 79, 16 and 404 buses.

Ringleader Adam Gawron admitted involvement earlier and was jailed for three and a half years.

Brother

Jacek Knysak, 34, Lukasz Michalik, 23 and Wiera Pawlowska, 40, all of Hayes Street, West Bromwich, Janusz Gawron, 46, brother of the ring leader, of Thursfield Road, West Bromwich and Adam Szwejda, 40, of Martley Road, Winson Green, were found guilty of conspiring with Adam Gawron to steal.

They were remanded in custody for sentence in the week beginning November 29. Mother-of-three Pawlowska got bail.

Jaroslav Kasprzyk, 45, of High Street, was acquitted after pleading not guilty.

Pick-pockets stole from 100 women on the buses

An Eastern European pick-pocket gang targeted pensioners on bus routes across the Black Country

A GANG of Polish pick-pockets, who preyed on bus passengers in the Black Country, stole from almost 100 women within nine months.

The gang of thieves mainly targeted frail pensioners, some aged in their 80s, who were travelling alone. They escaped with thousands of pounds worth of cash along with priceless personal possessions including treasured family photographs.

Their leader is now behind bars, it can be revealed following a Wolverhampton Crown Court trial involving other gang members that finished last week.

But there is no end to the suffering of victims like Irene Crockett.

The 73-year-old from Smethwick was going to see her husband at City Hospital in Birmingham when they stole her purse with over £200 cash in January last year.

Mr Crockett was so worried for her safety after being told about the theft that he made her promise to leave and live with one of their two children if anything happened to him – he died 13 days later.

Impact

Mrs Crockett honoured the pledge and moved to the home of their son in Blackpool and has stayed there ever since.

"The theft had a huge impact on my life," she explained. "I am still too scared to travel on a bus alone again and really miss my home and friends in Smethwick but I could not go back on my word to my husband. A promise is a promise."

Inspector Cate Webb-Jones, head of the 42-strong Safer Travel Policing Team which patrols West Midland buses and smashed the pick-pocket gang after a painstaking investigation, said: "Many of the elderly victims have been really disturbed by the thefts.

"They were not physically attacked but feel violated. A handbag and its contents are very personal to a lady. The irony is that bus crime has never been lower in the region."

The group of Eastern European immigrants operated in the region from at least November 2008, but the buses plagued by them passed through different police divisions meaning that offences were logged as isolated incidents and not linked.

Around four months later, Safer Travel Policing Team civilian analyst Miss Sam Todd spotted an unusual number of thefts on buses in which bags were slashed.

Several of these offences had happened on the 79 and 74 buses travelling from West Bromwich through Handsworth into Birmingham city centre. The 87, 16 and 404 routes also featured as inquiries developed.

Police, with the help of West Bromwich bus station CCTV operative Timothy Keyes, started collecting film from cameras covering buses where 35 of the crimes were committed.

Pc Jason Sayers spent three months studying the film, identifying individuals who cropped up at the scene of more than one of the thefts. PC Sara Reader spent eight months full time on the case.Distinctive features like the pock-marked skin of acne sufferer and gang ringleader Adam Gawron made them easier to identify.

The crimes often followed the same pattern: The thief covered his hands with a coat draped across his lap while slashing the bag of a woman sat next to him and stole her purse while other members of the gang worked as a team to distract the victim and block the view of potential witnesses.

Passengers on the West Midlands bus and tram network can text 83010 to report any concerns around nuisance and anti-social behaviour. All 14 Midland Metro trams and 1,700 National Express buses across the West Midlands are covered by the text messaging system that helps police to pinpoint and target trouble spots.

The five members of the gang who appeared in the Wolverhampton Crown Court trial that ended last Wednesday were Jacek Knysak, aged 34, Lukasz Michalik, 23 and Wiera Pawlowska, 40, all of Hayes Street, West Bromwich, Janusz Gawron, 46, of Thursfield Road, West Bromwich and Adam Szwejda, aged 40, of Martley Road, Winson Green. They had all denied conspiring together with Adam Gawron to steal from passengers on six occasions between January 1 and October 2 last year.

A sixth man, Jaroslav Kasprzyk, 45, of High Street, West Bromwich, was acquitted.

Gang ringleader Adam Gawron was jailed for three-and-a-half years in November last year after admitting fraud, theft and attempted theft.

Gang member Jacek Knysak outside crown court

Fellow gang members Adam Szwejda and Lukasz Michalik

Jaroslav Kasprzyk, who was found not guilty, and Wiera Pawlowska

Oyez! Oyez! Borough in bid to have a town crier

PLANS to appoint a town crier in Sandwell are set to be given the go-ahead by council bosses to raise the borough's national profile.

The crier will be required to become a member of The Loyal Company of Town Criers and The Ancient & Honourable Guild of Town Criers so that they will be insured.

Whoever gets to wear the wig will have to attend 12 official engagements per year, such as the Sandwell Show, and open new public buildings on behalf of the council.

Council leader Darren Cooper said: "We've heard a lot about cuts in recent weeks, I think promoting the borough given the position we're in is something people want us to do.

"Some people might perceive it as old-fashioned but I think we're very traditional in the Black Country and it would suit us.

"We have not had one in Sandwell for a number of years but we have had many people come forward who would be interested in the role."

The crier would be a voluntary position but Councillor Cooper said the council would be prepared to cover travel expenses.

"A total of £1,500 would be set aside for an "outfit tailored for use".

A condition of taking the role would mean the holder of the post would have to cover the professional fees to join The Loyal Company of Town Criers and The Ancient & Honourable Guild of Town Criers themselves.

Uniform

They would be required to represent the borough and enter the annual national town crier competition.

The crier will only be allowed to use the official uniform when carrying out council duties.

Cllr Cooper added: "We've set aside £1,500 for the outfit and we hope it will be the traditional outfit. We don't think they will need all this money.

"I think with the amount of interest we have had, we will have to interview for the post. Some of the backbench councillors will probably do that. We've been approached by people about this already."

Those interested in the ceremonial position can apply via the council's website.

In medieval times, it was not unusual for townspeople to be illiterate and the town crier kept them informed on local and national news.

Sundays will be roadworks days

A MAIN Cradley Heath road will be closed every Sunday to December 19 to allow resurfacing work to be carried out.

Halesowen Road in Cradley Heath, will be closed from its junction with Reddal Hill Road to its junction with Station Road including the roundabout.

During that time it is anticipated that the road will be closed, as and when required, on Sundays.

When Halesowen Road is closed, traffic will be diverted via: Highgate Street, Heathfield Way and vice-versa.

When the roundabout at the junction of Halesowen Road/ Heathfield Way/Station Road is closed traffic will be diverted via: Heathfield Way, Highgate Street, Wrights Lane, Station Road and vice-versa.

Drivers are being warned that as part of the A4100 route improvement scheme Reddal Hill Road will be operating one way (From Newtown Lane towards Halesowen Road) throughout the duration of the work in Halesowen Road.

For more details contact Nigel Underwood at Sandwell Council on 0121 569 4157.

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Claim by security guard is rejected

A WEST Bromwich man's claim for equal pay between security guards and office receptionists was lost at Birmingham Employment Tribunal.

Mr Ade Adetunji of Monkgate Drive, told the tribunal he was paid £6.50 an hour to guard a commercial block in Birmingham at night compared with £8.50 an hour paid to daytime receptionists.

He made his compensation claim against Europa Facilities Services whom he said had made him redundant.

Mr Adetunji, who had earlier withdrawn a compensation claim for victimisation, explained what duties he had to carry out, including patrols and dealing with night cleaners.

He said he should have been paid the same rate as receptionists.

Miss Pam Loch, representing Europa, opposed Mr Adetunji's claim and said a security guards job could not be compared with that of a receptionist.

She said there were a few female security guards and a few male receptionists, but clients fixed the rates of pay which were at the market level.

Tribunal Judge Mrs Pam Hughes said the tribunal accepted there was a difference in the roles.

She said the roles of security guard and receptionist could not be compared and rejected Mr Adetunji's compensation claim for equal pay.

Schools link up to share cultures

TEACHERS from a Sandwell primary school spent half term in a Polish school to kick start a partnership between the two.

One in ten of pupils at St John Bosco Primary School, on Monmouth Drive, are Polish and the pairing has been set up to enable pupils to learn about each others' culture and language. Three teachers from St John Bosco – Paul Mobberley, Mary Bannister and Danielle Joyce – were guests to Szkorta Podstawowa School in Sieradz, Poland. During the stay the teachers observed lessons and visited Auschwitz museum to learn about the Holocaust carried out in Nazi-occupied Poland during the Second World War.

Mr Mobberley said: "Children in Poland learn English from when they begin school at the age of seven and we were amazed by the grasp they have on the language. One class put on a performance of Little Red Riding Hood for our benefit entirely in English."

Free lunchtime organ concerts

FREE lunchtime organ concerts at West Bromwich Town Hall mark their 25th year with a new programme of entertainment.

Sandwell Council's cultural services organises the popular and classical music concerts once a month at the High Street venue.

Entertainment over the coming months will feature professional musicians, music teachers, church organists and serious amateurs.

The new programme will start on Thursday, December 2, with the return of Jean Martyn, international star of the concert keyboard, who is again back by popular demand.

Concerts will be held from 1pm and also include: January 13, 2011, Richard Hall; February 10, Damon Willetts; March 11, Keith Hearnshaw; April 7, Peter Morris.

Councillor Ann Shackleton, Sandwell Council cabient member for youth, culture and leisure, said: "This latest programme promises yet again to suit all tastes, varying in style from gentle refrains to window-shaking overtures."

For further information, call Jane Johnson on 0121 569 8276.

Gold award

CARING Sandwell Council staff have achieved a top award for the excellent service they provide to the bereaved.

Sandwell Council Bereavement Services has won Gold status from the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management.

It is the first authority in the Midlands to achieve the accolade.

Council facing huge bills over child care

sandwellchronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

ALMOST 2,000 youngsters have been referred to Sandwell children's social services in just five months.

According to new figures there were 1,915 referrals made to Sandwell Council between April and September.

A massive rise in the number of borough children being taken into care is costing the council millions more than budgeted and an extra £3.9 million is now being invested in children's social care this year.

Figures for referrals for the past three years show a year on year increase.

Sandwell Council received 5,060 referrals in 2009/10 and 3,130 were made in 2008/09.

The rise is believed to have been triggered by high profile child cruelty cases such as Baby P and the tragic case of seven-year-old Handsworth schoolgirl Khyra Ishaq who starved to death in 2008.

Sandwell's finance boss, Councillor Steve Eling said today that spiralling children's services costs are the single biggest budget pressure on the authority.

The council is battling to make savings of £75 million over the next four years.

Cllr Eling, Sandwell Council cabinet member for strategic resources, said: "There is an increasing case load with people being referred to children's social care ever since cases such as Baby P.

"It is the single biggest issue within overall budgets that just doesn't seem to be picked up adequately at a national level."

Shortage

Cllr Eling added that a shortage of foster carers in the borough means children are being housed in costly residential homes which cost the council thousands of pounds a week for each child.

He added: "If the number of children coming into care keeps coming in at the rate they are coming in, local authorities are not going to be able to afford it."

The council's strategic risk register has highlighted safeguarding children as one of the biggest risks facing the council.

In August the council appointed Barbara Peacock as borough's new executive director of children and families. She replaced Roger Crouch who resigned from the post in December after a damning Ofsted report rated the council as "inadequate" for safeguarding children.

Summit on schools' funds crisis shelved

A NATIONAL summit due to be held in Sandwell to discuss the scrapping of millions of pounds worth of schools rebuilding projects has been shelved.

Council bosses have put the summit on ice as the authority waits to find out whether it will receive any of the £15 billion of capital funding for schools promised by the Government.

The conference was set to debate the scrapping of Building Schools for the Future funding and was due to host other councils from across the country.

It was originally scheduled to take place in September.

However, the council is holding fire as awaits Government announcements on funds it may receive.

Council leader Councillor Darren Cooper said: "People are still up in the air with what's going to be happening with the capital programme so we have decided to postpone the seminar."

Resurrected

But he said the plan could be resurrected after funding had been allocated.

He said: "I am waiting with baited breath for that announcement and I am hoping it comes very soon."

The council is seeking a judicial review after nine borough schools lost £138 million under cuts to the Building Schools for the Future scheme but has been warned the cost of legal action could run into hundreds of thousands of pounds.

The council has branded the cuts "irrational and unfair".

Safer cycling

Pupils at Perryfields Primary School doing the Bikeability course with Sandwell Council instructors Jamie Holford and Mark Worley

CHILDREN at an Oldbury school are safer on the roads, thanks to a special cycling training course run by Sandwell Council.

Year four pupils at Perryfields Primary School in Apsley Road have completed their Level One Bikeability course, which has replaced the old cycling proficiency test.

Bikeability gives children a full day of training in the playground and information on bike maintenance. The course comes in three parts and is provided free by Sandwell Council's Road Safety Team, with support from Sandwell Primary Care Trust. Ninety per cent of Sandwell schools run Bikeability sessions.

Children at Perryfields Primary were presented with a certificate and badge for completing level one.

For further information, contact Claire Postin on 0121 569 4102.

M5 link is worst bottleneck in the UK

A SECITON of the M5 heading towards the M6 at Birmingham is the worst UK traffic bottleneck, according to a congestion index.

The Birmingham-bound section of the M5 was found to be jammed 63 hours a week in 2009/10, with an average speed below 15mph when congested. The index by traffic information company INRIX said that if you happened to be driving on this stretch on a Friday from 5pm to 6pm you could conceivably ride your bike faster than your car, with an average speed of only 8mph.

The bottleneck findings will come as no surprise to West Midland motorists who have been facing long running traffic problems as work to tackle congestion is carried out on the M6.

It is part of the ongoing work to deliver the managed motorways scheme, which will open up the hard shoulder between junctions 8 for the M5 and 10A at Wolverhampton.

Wednesdays

The index also revealed that Wednesday is the worst day for traffic jams and that UK drivers spend more time in traffic compared with drivers in Belgium, France, Germany, Luxembourg and Holland. London ranks second after Paris as the most traffic-clogged city among the six countries analysed.

Looking at the UK, the index showed that the worst commuting hour for drivers is 8am to 9am on Mondays, with Friday having the worst evening commute.

However, despite the amount of evening jams, Friday is the best weekday for traffic. Meanwhile, the most congestion-free weekday commuting hour is 6am to 7am on Fridays.

Masterclass for musicians

YOUNG musicians were yesterday (Wednesday) due to be treated to a masterclass by world-famous concert pianist Richard Meyrick in West Bromwich.

The pianist was due at the Town Hall to give the masterclass and offer expert advice to pupils from schools across the borough.He was following the masterclass by giving a recital. Entry was free for the concert which was at 6.30pm.

Head of Sandwell Youth Music and Arts Service Sarah Barnes said: "We are so privileged to be able to host this event and are most grateful for the generous sponsorship of Harvey Mcgrath. Richard Meyrick's performances are always most exhilarating and an experience that appeals to listeners of all ages."

Cabinet member for youth, culture and leisure Cllr Ann Shackleton said: "It is rare to have a musician of such high calibre in the borough."

Awarded a foundation scholarship to the Royal College of Music at 16, Meyrick made his concert début at the Wigmore Hall, while still a student.

thechronicle

Three hour ordeal for 'vulnerable' man ordered to withdraw cash for drugs

Woman jailed for kidnap role

A WOMAN from Oldbury has been jailed for nearly four years for her part in the violent kidnap of a 'vulnerable' friend.

Ann Marie Burns admitted kidnap and attempted robbery.

Burns, aged 37, of St James Road, frogmarched her 57-year-old victim to a taxi so he could go to his bank to withdraw money from his account to buy her drugs, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

Judge Phillip Parker QC told Burns: "This was a despicable offence against a vulnerable person you regarded as a pushover".

He sentenced her to three years and nine months.

Mr Warren Stanier, prosecuting, said Burns had known the victim for 10 years and she had been to his flat to borrow £70.

But she returned with a male accomplice and they both took drugs before demanding more money. The victim was then punched four times in the face before it was decided to take him to his bank so he could withdraw more cash for drugs. In all, his ordeal lasted more than three hours.

Police were called after one of the man's neighbours spotted what was going on. They were able to intercept the taxi and arrest Burns and her accomplice.

Judge Parker said: "I accept you were not the leading player in this crime but you did nothing to prevent what happened.

"You were desperate for money and you decided to go to the home of an old acquaintance and borrow some money.

"When it was not sufficient to fuel your drug habit you went back to demand even more money."

Refused

The judge said that when the victim refused to hand over further cash he was subjected to a violent attack before managing to lock himself in a toilet.

However, he came out after one of the shattered windows.

Miss Sarah Buckingham, defending, said it was the man with Burns who had sparked off the violence.

"The victim had been kind to her in the past and she has expressed her sorrow and remorse for what she has done," Miss Buckingham said.

"She is not a violent woman but she had a desperate craving for Class A drugs."

The court was told the man involved in the offences with Burns is expected to be sentenced in December.

Family locked in corridor

Nick and Sonia Davis from New Road, Great Bridge, who were locked in a corri dor at Birmingham Airport after coming back from a week's holiday in Turkey

A FAMILY were locked in a corridor at Birmingham Airport after returning from a week in the sun.

Nick and Sonia Davis, from Great Bridge, along with Nick's mother Jane and their three children were trapped for about 15 minutes after arriving home from Turkey.

Mr Davis said he has serious concerns over security at the airport after the ordeal, claiming there was no-one monitoring the passengers after they got off the plane. The family had enjoyed a week in Dalyan and became trapped after entering the terminal at 1.50am on Sunday (October 31) on their return.

Mr Davis, aged 36, said: "We could see the cabin crew leaving the plane and started banging on the windows to try to get their attention but they couldn't hear us."

Tony Brunskill, spokesman for Servisair, said the problem could have been caused by an automatic locking system being triggered when the clocks changed and has apologised to Mr Davis and his family.

Forum meets

THERE is a Neighbourhood Forum meeting to raise issues of concern for Wednesbury North, on Thursday, November 25, at 6.15pm at Wesley Centre, Springhead, Wednesbury.

WAAF veterans in cash call

War pals' battle for memorial

Doris, back left, at Ismailia in Egypt

Doris Catchpole, aged 90, from Tipton

A 90-year-old Tipton woman who served in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force in the Second World War is helping to raise money for a monument at the National Memorial Arboretum, near Lichfield.

Doris Catchpole is still in contact with four of her former colleagues and they are campaigning for the permanent memorial at the arboretum in Alrewas, Staffordshire, in tribute to WAAFs.

Doris's service began in January 1941 when she plotted the locations of enemy aircraft. She served in Liverpool, Plymouth and Llandaff in Wales before going to Ismailia in Egypt in 1944.

She said: "We were connected up to radar and air fighter pilots, with a set of headphones, plotting the Jerries on the screen.

"We were underground under reinforced concrete but we still had to wear tin hats just in case. It was tense, it was frightening and it was always so dark."

For great grandmother Doris there was a silver lining to her service, as she met husband Jim while stationed in Egypt. The couple had one daughter, Barbara, who died 13 years ago. Jim died 20 years ago.

Doris is campaigning for funds for the memorial to women who served in the WAAF. Donate to WAAF Memorial Fund, 2 South Road, Alresford, Hants, S024 9HR.

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Warning on council tax scam

SANDWELL Trading Standards today issued a warning to residents that fraudsters are using a sophisticated council tax scam to try to steal from them.

Tricksters are using the promise of council tax rebates to obtain residents' bank details and other sensitive personal information. Armed with this crucial data, the fraudsters are then able to empty bank accounts.

Bob Robinson, Trading Standards manager, said: "Their latest tactic is to telephone householders and masquerade as council tax officials. They are either told they have paid too much and are entitled to a rebate, or that they have not paid enough and need to top up their payments.

Insistent

"In both scenarios the caller asks for bank account details and other information such as date of birth and becomes quite insistent if refused."

Several residents reported the scam to trading standards officers in Sandwell in recent months.

Cabinet member for safer neighbourhoods Councillor Derek Rowley said: "The calls are not being made by our Council Tax team and I would like to remind residents not to give their personal information or bank details to anyone over the phone unless they are certain who the caller is."

Trading Standards are advising residents who think that they may have given their bank account details to a fraudster to contact their bank immediately. Anyone who wishes to check their Council Tax account details can call 0845 351 0015 or email contact@sandwell.gov.uk.

Santa's grotto

ALL Saints Church Christmas Fair in West Bromwich is being held on Saturday, November 27, from 11am to 2pm. There will be lots of stalls and Santa will be in his grotto.

Local Transport Minister Norman Baker, left, marks the completion of the £14 million Smartcard rollout programme on the buses with Centro chairman Angus Adams

Buses 'smarter'

COMPLETION of a £14 million project to make West Midlands buses 'smart' was officially marked by Local Transport Minister Norman Baker in Sandwell.

The Smartcard project by regional transport authority Centro has seen more than 2,500 buses fitted with electronic card readers that pave the way for a local version of London's Oyster Card.

The Minister marked the Smartcard rollout by presenting a giant personalised version of the concessionary travel pass to Centro Chairman Angus Adams at West Bromwich Bus Station.

The on-board Smartcard readers are programmed to accept the free national concessionary passes for older and eligible blind and disabled people.

Holders simply place their card on the reader when they board and wait for the green light to show or the audible beep to be heard.

Only holders of concessionary passes have to use the Smartcard readers at the moment but the successful installation of the machines on the region's buses will now enable new kinds of smart ticketing to be introduced.

Mr Baker said: "The benefits of smart ticketing are clear – quicker, easier and potentially better value journeys on trains, buses and trams.

"My personal vision is to see seamless travel on one smart card throughout the country by 2020, at the latest, and I believe the roll-out of smart ticketing will attract more people onto public transport.

Benefits

"Smart ticketing is already part of everyday life for millions of people across England and I am pleased that travellers in the West Midlands will now be able to experience the same benefits."

Virtually all the buses and depots belonging to the region's bus companies have now been fitted out by Centro with the Smartcard machines and office computer equipment. The machines read a microchip which is embedded in all concessionary passes that allow free travel on local buses in England.

Centro chairman Councillor Angus Adam, said: "This has been a complex project but it paves the way for the introduction of a truly world class ticketing system. Now that our region's buses are smart we can press on with work to introduce a West Midlands Smartcard, similar to the Oyster Card in London. This will enable passengers to pre-load their card with cash which is then deducted as it is used, regardless of which bus company's service they get on.

"We are also looking at giving Smartcard holders discounted fares."

The technology has only been installed on buses so far but Centro is working with ticket machine suppliers to introduce a handheld Smartcard ticket machine that can be used by conductors on the Midland Metro too.

Local rail operator London Midland also has a commitment to introduce Smartcard technology on the West Midlands rail network.

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thechronicle

Santa leads city parade

SANTA is coming to town and bringing the Christmas spirit with him on Saturday November with his special guest, Brummie rock star Roy Wood, in the Birmingham Christmas Parade.

Travelling in traditional Scandinavian sleigh with reindeers and elves, Santa will switch on the Christmas Lights after the parade of colourful Christmas characters and musicians makes its way through the city centre from Bullring to Brindleyplace.

Wizzard's Roy Wood will catch a Star at Birmingham Christmas Parade

The parade will be via New Street, Corporation Street, St Phillips Cathedral, Colmore Row, through Victoria Square and Paradise Forum onto Broad Street.

The parade culminates in Brindleyplace where the Wizzard front man will receive his Walk of Stars plaque.

Highlights of the parade include an appearance by the Frost Queen, Christmas puddings, snowmen, fairies and Jack Frost. Pantomime characters from the city's Hippodrome and Crescent theatres will also be in the parade.

An illuminated train, cycling Panda bear, The Irish Pipes and Drums and Christmas Baubles are also set to delight the crowds.

Santa's reindeer with Rudolph will be in a petting pen in High Street from 1pm. Urban Canvas will be running family activity workshops from 11am to 1pm then from1.30 to 3.30pm.

A Christmas Galleon show with have-a-go activities will be in Victoria Square (from 10am to 3.30pm) with a funfair carousel.

In St Phillips Cathedral Green on Colmore Row there will be a magical illuminated display including Christmas Puddings and Cinderella's pumpkin (2 to 5.30pm). In Centenary Square, as the parade passes by, there will be a 'Heliosphere' aerial display.

Stars

The parade ends at Brindleyplace where former Move and Wizzard man Roy Wood will be presented with his Walk of Stars plaque at the BRMB stage. Of course, one of Wizzard's biggest hits was I Wis It Could Be Christmas Every Day.

The event will end with a five minute fireworks display.

The Christmas Parade is organised by Birmingham City Council. Councillor Martin Mullaney, cabinet member for leisure, sport and culture said, "The free Birmingham Christmas Parade is just one of many events on offer over the coming weeks organised by Birmingham City Council, enabling everyone to enjoy the Christmas season whatever their budget."

Taking part in the naming project, pupils (front from left) Jeenesh Patel, Cameron Shelton, Chaianne Frizzell, with mayor Cllor Mrs Pauline Hinton, and (back from left) Kyra Francis, Danielle Murray, Alex Middleton

Pupils name homes

IMAGINATIVE pupils in Greets Green have taken part in a project to help name a new housing development for older people.

A group of seven to 11-year-olds from Guns Village Primary School have worked with staff from Sandwell Council's Partnerships and Housing Directorate and specialist housing provider Housing 21 to suggest a name for an 'extra care' housing scheme which is being built nearby.

The children were supported in their research by borough archaeologist Graham Eyre-Morgan, who spoke to them about the history of the area. They also heard about the clever electronic gadgets which will be built into the development to help people live independently.

A panel made up of representatives from Housing 21 and Sandwell Council chose the name Goldfield Court following presentations by the children. They explained how in the Norman era the area was covered in a gold-yellow flowering scrub plant called Broom, which was harvested and sent to weavers to be made into broomsticks. They also went on to say how the Normans named their area Bromwic, after Broom, before it became known as West Bromwich.

The new development will be situated on Oak Lane and Dartmouth Street. The scheme, consisting of 92 apartments for people who are over 55,, will open next year.

The Mayor of Sandwell, Councillor Mrs Hinton said: "It is great to see the enthusiasm of the young people who were involved in this project."

Getting into the festive spirit with town hall carol concert

PREPARATIONS are well in hand for the 121st annual Christmas carol concert at West Bromwich Town Hall on Saturday, December 11.

Following a tradition which began in 1889, people gather every year in the town hall to sing carols in the run-up to Christmas.

This year will have a contrast of traditional and lively music and song throughout the evening. There will be performances from Langley Band, Warley Male Choir and soloist Maggie O'Hara. The evening will be presented by Mike Wyer.

Tickets

Cabinet member for youth, culture and leisure Councillor Ann Shackleton said: "This promises to be a wonderful evening and I urge people to go along to get into the Christmas spirit."

Tickets are available at £3 each and can be obtained from Jane Johnson, Sandwell Council Cultural Services, Environment House, Lombard Street, West Bromwich, B70 8RU. State if you would like downstairs main hall or balcony seats.

For further information contact Jane Johnson on 0121 569 8276 or www.events.sandwell.gov.uk

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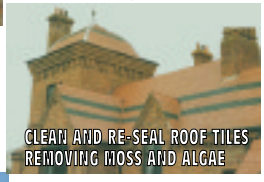

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New school opens doors to students

PUPILS in Smethwick moved g into new buildings last week.

The first phase of a £23.5 million rebuild at Holly Lodge High School, which is a college of science, was completed before half term and pupils have started to move in.

They have occupied the 'art deco' south block and temporary classrooms over the past year as the rest of the school underwent the multi-million pound overhaul.

Classroom equipment has been packed into boxes at the Holly Road site as the school hands the remaining buildings over to contractors for the final phase of the work.

Last Thursday the 1,250 pupils were moving into the new modern, glass fronted buildings, which are surrounded by landscaped grounds and filled with public art, with the first "full" school day in the building tomorrow.

Once completed Holly Lodge's new home will named the Smethwick Learning Campus. Work is due to finish next August.

Headteacher Ahson Mohammed said: "It's really exciting to see the structure emerge.

"For the first time there is a real sense of how the new buildings will look. "

Pictured at the new school are, from left, Sandeep Khera, aged 17, Avtar Singh, 15, Joshua Gilling, 15, headteacher Ahson Mohammed, Sean Rutty, 17, Joshua Toy, 15 and Kelly Gardner, 15

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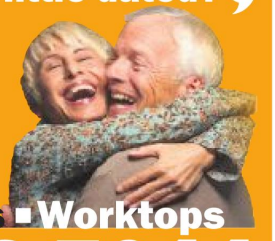

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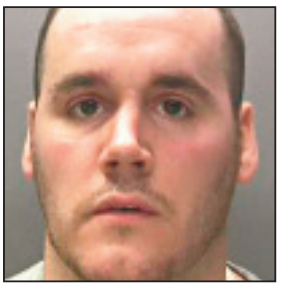
Downfall of violent gunman

Cried in court – Craig Hickinbottom

Young accomplice – Conor Cox



Dropped shotgun – Dean Isitt

The sawn-off shotgun that Isitt dropped

Dangerous robber Craig Hickinbottom is facing life behind bars

CRAIG Hickinbottom was once one of the country's most w anted fugitives.

So when he vanished after being released early from prison a major surveillance operation was mounted in a bid to track him down.

The full story of Craig Hickinbottom's violent background and his dramatic arrest can be revealed after he and two accomplices were convicted by a jury at Wolverhampton Crown Court.

The drama began when the 28-year-old was released from jail, where he was serving three-and-half years for escaping from a prison van, and ordered to live at a bail hostel in Stonnall Road, Aldridge.

But on February 28, he fled the hostel. His history of serious crime triggered a major manhunt by West Midlands Police. Surveillance officers were deployed to West Bromwich, where Hickinbottom grew up and where his known criminal associates live. It was not long before he was spotted in a Vauxhall Corsa which had been stolen after car keys were taken in a burglary at a house in Stourbridge.

In the car with him were Conor Cox, aged 18, of New Street, Brierley Hill and Dean Isitt, 31, of Waterfall Lane, Rowley Regis.

Isitt and Hickinbottom have a criminal history dating back to at least 2002. They were two of five members of an armed gang jailed for a string of raids on shops in the Black Country.

The gang was described "violent and professional" in the way that they stole thousands of pounds worth of cigarettes.

Professional dirt bike rider Conor Cox, meanwhile, was much younger and had no serious convictions.

Unmarked

After the death of Hickinbottom's close friend and Conor's brother Sam Cox in a car crash, Conor and Hickinbottom bonded and he became "like an uncle" to the teenager.

Armed police and surveillance officers travelling in unmarked cars had only watched the Corsa, which carried number plates stolen from a similar vehicle, for a short time before the decision was taken to stop the gang at gunpoint.

They pulled alongside as Hickinbottom waited to join a roundabout at the junction of Bromford Road and Kelvin Way.

Police told how the Corsa's wheels span as Hickinbottom desperately tried to escape, colliding with police cars before crashing into a fence.

Clutching the shotgun and ammunition, Isitt fled, leaping a fence into the yard of Bromford Iron & Steel. He was confronted there by factory operation's manager Barry Ingram, who was hailed as a hero by detectives.

Mr Ingram told the court: "I started to run towards the guy, I wanted to catch him. He said 'Get out of the way mister, or I'll shoot you'. He was carrying a bag under his right arm."

The confrontation forced Isitt to change his escape route and drop the JD Sports bag carrying the lethal weapon.

Detective Sereant Hooton, who led the investigation, said : "Through the efforts of a very brave member of the public in challenging him twice, Isitt was forced to escape towards a rear wall that was so high that he had to discard the firearm to get over it.

"If that hadn't happened he would have got away with the firearm and there would have been no evidence that there was a gun in the car. He realises that what he's done put him in an awful lot of danger but he'd do the same thing again. He doesn't consider himself a hero and he's very modest."

Hickinbottom and Cox were arrested but Isitt escaped. But his fingerprints were left on the bag which held the gun. He was arrested on April 27, when he was stopped at gunpoint on the car park at Asda Great Bridge.

Police are in no doubt as to the gang's plan that day. Det Sgt Hooton said: "It was a stolen vehicle on false plates, coupled with the shotgun, the gloves and the balaclavas. All that led us to believe that the intention of the occupants was purely to commit a robbery."

Hickinbottom tried to claim that he had no idea the shotgun was in the car. He broke down in tears in court, in what prosecutors described as an "audacious" act for the jury, when he refused to name the third man who fled with the gun. The three men denied firearms charges and possession of the stolen Vauxhall Corsa and number plates. Hickinbottom denied dangerous driving.

Det Sgt Hooton said of the shotgun: "The hard facts in the cold light of day are that these are lethal weapons that serve no legitimate purpose other than to instil absolute fear at the people they are pointed at."

A life of crime from the age of 12

CRAIG Hickinbottom has criminal convictions dating back to the age of 12.

In 2002 he was one of five members of an armed gang jailed for a string of raids on shops and supermarkets in the Black Country. The five, from the Sandwell and Dudley areas, were jailed for between two-and-a-half and four years.

The gang, four of whom committed offences while still on licence for previous jail terms, had earlier admitted a total of nine charges in relation to the raids.

Judge Laurence Marshall sentenced Hickinbottom, of Oldbury, to two concurrent terms of three years in detention for two attempted robberies, as well as six months consecutively for possessing an imitation firearm with intent to cause fear. He was also ordered to serve 150 days from a previous prison sentence. Partner-in-crime Dean Isitt received 18 months for dangerous driving, six months consecutively for having an imitation firearm and 150 days from an earlier sentence.

Cigarettes

Mr Paul Farrer, prosecuting, told the court the defendants had been part of a violent and professional armed gang who had targeted businesses, stealing thousands of pounds worth of cigarettes.

He said members of the gang, who always wore balaclavas, carried crowbars, sledgehammers, screwdrivers, spanners and baseball bats as weapons.

They had also forced their way into the town's Sainsbury's store, Savacentre in Oldbury, Kwik Save in Netherton and the One Stop shop in Halesowen and Sparkles wine shop in Lye.

In 2003 Hickinbottom was jailed for five years for his part in a series of crimes, including armed robbery.

He pleaded guilty on the basis that he was not present but had supplied a stolen car used in them.

He admitted involvement in a ram raid at a car dealership in Sutton Coldfield when two Volkswagen Polos worth a total of almost £33,000 were stolen.

Last year, Hickinbottom claimed stringent licence conditions imposed upon his release were in breach of his human rights.

He had been recalled to maximum security HMP Whitemoor in July last year for breaching a ban fromentering certain areas of the West Midlands.

Hickinbottom told the High Court he wanted to live with his mother in Waterways Drive, Oldbury. He argued that the conditions were "disproportionate" but top judges rejected his case.

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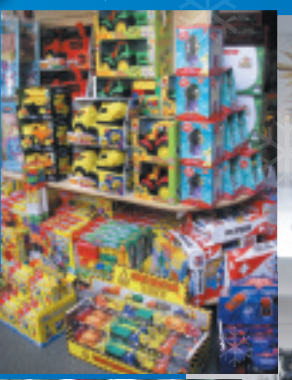

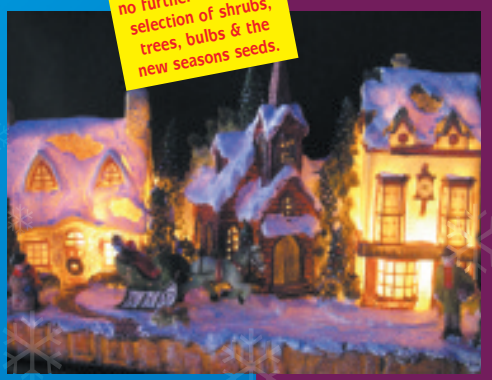

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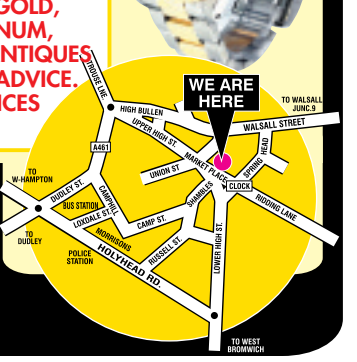

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thechronicle

Arsonists hunted after £1m blaze

Trike is treat for brave Mia after cancer fight

AN OLDBURY girl who has had brain surgery three times has received an adapted trike to help her exercise.

Mia Reid, aged 11, was diagnosed with gliosblastoma multiforme, an aggressive brain tumour, in 2003.

Since then she has undergone brain surgery three times along with chemotherapy and radiotherapy.

As a result Mia, who attends Halesbury Special School in Dudley, has learning difficulties and epilepsy and finds physical activities difficult.

Now Solihull-based charity Cyclists Fighting Cancer – which donates bikes, trikes and tandems to children and young people affected by cancer – has funded a special £1,300 trike for Mia.

Mother

Her mother Neesha said: "Mia wanted a bike but it would not have been possible for her to have a two wheel bike.

"But this one is specially adapted with a strap that fits around her waist. She can be just like other the other children."

Mrs Reid works as a volunteer at Birmingham Children's Hospital in the Oncology Day Care centre.

She approached the charity after being told about it by another mother.

Riding high – delighted Mia Reid on her specially-adapted £1,300 trike with her father Martyn, aged 44, younger brother Joe, nine, and mother Neesha, 36

DAMAGE estimated at £1 million was caused when arsonists struck at a scrapyard in Smethwick.

The blaze which engulfed European Metal Recycling in Downing Street last Tuesday night came after arsonists targeted the company's sister plant in Darlaston on October 27.

More than 20 firefighters were called to the former Coopers Metals site last week. Rail lines were closed as firefighters tackled the flames.

Detective Sergeant Chris Vyse, leading the investigation into the attacks, said: "We are doing everything we can to catch those responsible for the fire. They have caused a substantial amount of damage and someone could have been seriously hurt.

"We believe the offenders may have come by foot via the Booth Street Metro line at around 10pm, and possibly left using the same route. If you saw anyone acting suspiciously please call Force CID at Harborne police station on 0345 113 5000."

Oldbury fire station commander Richard Jones said firefighters had feared a massive explosion due to cylinders and hydraulic oil stored on the site.

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Shopkeepers shaken by thefts and attacks

I am writing from Uppal Office Licence in Greenfield Road, Smethwick.

We have been in business in the area for the last 25 years, with an aging grandfather, mother and tather. They recently had the misfortune to suffer the following incidents within our small shop:

On the October 27, my mother was in the shop when two males, one with a hammer, jumped on the counter and stole three bottles of sprits. I was upstairs, had to call for the police and ambulance for my mother who had cut on her hand. She was deeply shaken.

A few days later, on November 2, a firework was thrown into the shop. Lckily I was available, had to phone the fire service and ambulance due to smoke inhalation.

Finally, on November 4, a customer comes in to ask for a bottle of Teachers (whiskey), grabbed the bottle from my father and ran off.

As consequence of the above, after many years, we have had to resort to closing the shop from our usual time of 10.30pm to 9pm, with the option of looking into selling the premises if possible.

Pardeep Uppal
Greenfield Rd
Smethwick

Fund is available to help former air force personnel

THIS November the nation will stop to remember all those who have given their lives in the service of their country.

Of course, all three services deserve our thoughts and prayers at this time but in this Battle of Britain 70th anniversary year it's important that we show our appreciation for the contribution made by members of the Royal Air Force.

If it were not for the courage, determination and dedication to duty of those who fought in the Battle of Britain, it is very possible that this country would have been overwhelmed by the worst kind of tyranny. It represents an extraordinary moment in our history and one that should not be forgotten.

At the RAF Benevolent Fund, the RAF's leading welfare charity, we are devoted to honouring the debt of gratitude we owe to all those who have served, and continue to serve, in the Royal Air Force.

We do this by providing financial and practical support to all members of the RAF family in need. That means we help those who have served in any rank, in any role, at any time – from the 1920s through the Second World War, National Service and the Cold War, right up to those serving today, in Afghanistan and elsewhere. We also offer support to the spouses and partners of those who've served.

We are here to help with a whole range of issues: from childcare and relationship difficulties to injury and disability, and from financial hardship and debt to illness and bereavement.

This November, I would urge any of your readers who think they might be eligible for our assistance, or who know someone in need of support, to contact the RAF Benevolent Fund. You can do this by calling our free support line on 0800 198 2400. To find out more about the charity's work, or to apply for support online, please visit www.rafbf.org.

Martin Henshaw
RAF Benevolent
Fund Regional Director
Wales and West

Call for Robin Hood tax

I know we are in difficult economic times. But there is one easy decision that could spare a lot of the tough ones.

A tax on the banks could raise £20 billion in the UK to help those hit by the financial crisis in this country and around the world. For every cut I hear the Government announce, I keep asking: could a tax on the banks have paid for that?

The situation we find ourselves in started in the financial sector and we spent £1.4 trillion bailing them out. We are all paying for a party we weren't quite invited to. I want to see my MP and leaders start fighting for a tax that would make Robin Hood proud.

Aldo Mussi
Shrublands Avenue, Oldbury

Catastrophic blow

Cameron's world is an enigma of political confusion – we can merge our army, sink our navy, ground our air force, but we can't have the French pensions, retire at 62, get the best cancer care, or have the workers' rights they have in France.

We will have a aircraft carrier with no planes and the French with their hand on our energy supplies. I'm at a loss to understand how two countries can share the same army and, with a 50 year tie in, it spells a catastrophic blow to our military independence that will destroy our arms manufacturing industries and leave us at the mercy of any European political shift. **S T Vaughan**

Glastonbury Road,
Yardley Wood

Fewer buses in bid to beat road chaos

A BUS service running through Sandwell has been trimmed by transport chiefs trying to combat traffic problems.

The 80 service, which runs from Birmingham via Smethwick and West Bromwich, has been reduced by one bus per hour.

From Monday to Friday between 9.30am and 3.30pm they used to run every 15 minutes. This has now been reduced to every 20 minutes during that period.

National Express spokesman Carly O'Donnell said they were changing the frequency of buses in order to reduce delays.

The service was affected by jams at Five Ways, Holloway Circus, Smallbrook Queensway and Moor Street.

"We have altered some of the timetables so that buses arrive when they are suppose to," she said.

Late

"Some buses were running late because of traffic conditions and roadworks.

"We have been closely managing them and have decided the buses need extra time. Hopefully this will make it a more reliable service. We don't want people waiting at a bus stop longer than they need to."

The service will continue to run every 15 minutes at off peak times, including weekends.

Meanwhile extra time has been added to the timetable of the 82 service, which runs from Birmingham to Bearwood, and the 87 service, that runs from Birmingham via Smethwick and Oldbury.

The buses will still run as frequently but bosses have taken into account extra traffic and pushed back some of the arrival times.

The changes have been made after customer feedback.

Councillor Roger Leslie Horton, Sandwell lead member for local transport, said: "If they are having problems keeping up with the frequencies they should be putting more buses in, not taking them away."

To view all the changes visit the www.nxbus.co.uk website.

Keen-eyed Darren saves Nutty

RED squirrel Nutty's broken leg is on the mend, thanks to sharp-eyed Dudley Zoo keeper Darren Sadler.

Darren, 26, of Tipton, noticed the three-year-old squirrel was unusually listless, and decided to take a closer look.

Dudley Zoo Registrar and Research Co-ordinator Dr David Beeston said: "Nutty had broken one of his back legs. An X-ray revealed it was a clean fracture so, thankfully, we were able to save him by setting the leg naturally. Following treatment he convalesced in one of the barns.

"Nutty was lucky to have been spotted by Darren, as the leg would have become infected, and he would have hidden away and died."

Nutty is now back in his enclosure with the rest of his group. Red squirrels (sciurus vulgaris) are part of an award-winning native species programme at the zoo.

Dudley Zoo keeper Darren Sadler with red squirrel Nutty who is recovering from a broken leg

Santa's on his way to light up Tipton

TIPTON Christmas Festival will light up the town on Saturday, November 27.

Festive stalls, live entertainment, a brass band, carols and Father Christmas on his sleigh will keep the crowds entertained from 1pm to 5pm.

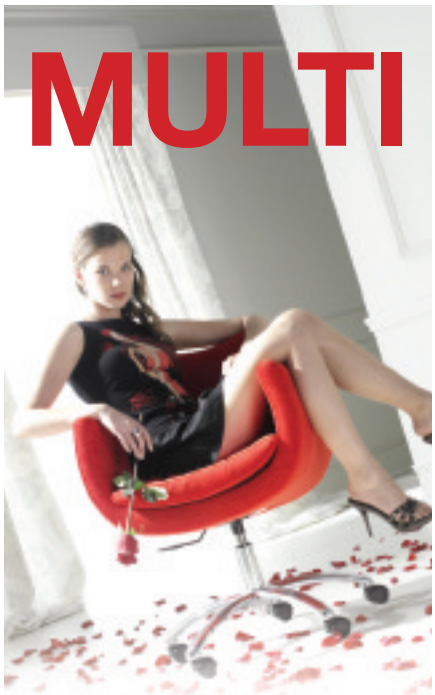
The event, in Unity Walk off Owen Street, will culminate with the switch on of the town centre Chrismas lights.

Charities

Father Christmas will also be touring the streets of Tipton and town supermarkets throughout December to raise money for local charities.

For more information about the event, and to find out when Santa will be doing his rounds, go to the website: www.tiptoncommunityassociation.com

Hurry final week at Cousins'



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EATON Coated leather tub chair (T)	£399	£147	**REST ASSURED** Double pocketsprung drawer divan	£799	£245	**ALL HANGING** 2 door wardrobe	£879	£278
G PLAN Oakland 3 seater sofa and power recliner chair (D)	£2529	£995	**RENO** Double size leather headboard	£199	£44	**BED SIDE** Table	£139	£58
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Traders angry after payout plea denied

COMPENSATION will not be given out to traders who lost customers and trade during a £3 million roadworks scheme.

Shopkeepers whose businesses are near Reddal Hill Road and Upper High Street in Cradley Heath said takings had halved three weeks into a 15-month project to widen the carriageway and ease congestion in the area. Major routes along the A4100 are becoming one-way as part of works.

Traders say bus services were disrupted and shoppers were driven away. But their pleas for compensation have been rejected with council bosses saying the work had to be carried out for everyone's benefit.

Councillor Derek Rowley, Sandwell's transport boss, said: "We are sorry to hear of any inconvenience traders are experiencing.

"Under the law there is no obligation for councils to pay out compensation for loss of trade due to repairs to the roads because we simply have to repair and improve them for everybody's use.

"If we had to factor in compensation claims for loss of trade for all big projects, they just wouldn't happen for fear it could cost the council a lot of money in payouts – so the law makes provision to say we do not pay out compensation for loss of trade.

Consultation

"We have undertaken a lot of consultation with the traders and residents, including posters, letters, brochures, exhibitions, discussions and questionnaires since February last year.

"This is a major project to improve the roads in Cradley Heath and hopefully all businesses will reap the benefits once the work has been completed."

Stephen Pitts, of Teet Shirts, who said the shop was down £1,000 in takings last week, said: "I am absolutely gobsmacked.

"It comes at a time when central government are asking business to get the country out of debt and now we've been saddled with this millstone round our neck of these roadworks."

Pupils retell Diwali

PUPILS from a Smethwick school retold the story of Diwali with a play which they wrote and devised themselves.

Youngsters aged 11 to 15 at Holly Lodge High School, researched Hindu and Sikh festivals of light before devising their own performance.

The play was based on the battle between good and evil, which sees Lord Rama return to his kingdom after defeating the demon king Ravana. A sell-out audience watched the show at West Bromwich's art gallery The Public.

Thirteen pupils worked with Reena Jaisiah and Zimla Prasad, from the Cafte Away Arts group, to come up with the play.

Research

Reena Jaisiah, artistic director of Cafte Away Arts, said: "It was a great show. The pupils did a great job on their research. For many of them it was their first performance, so they did really well."

The show was part of a cultural festival held at the New Street venue.

Simone Wiggetts, aged 14, front left, and Umi Ali,15, front right, with fellow students of Holly Lodge School, rehearsing their play The Story of Diwali

Opportunity for a say on historic park

A PUBLIC consultation is being held to give residents a chance to have a say on the future of an historic park.

Lightwoods Park, Bearwood, is back in Sandwell Council control after being looked after by Birmingham City Council since the early 1970s.

The park, which includes rundown Grade II-listed building Lightwoods House, borders Birmingham along Hagley Road. The city council was accused of neglecting the 29-acre park and house in favour of parks within its own borders.

At least £1.2 million will have to be spent restoring a building dating back to 1780. It has had a leaking roof, dry rot and dangerous electrics.

On Saturday, November 13, a public consultation at the park will give residents the chance to contribute ideas on future uses for the house and what they would like to see in the park. It will be held at the park in Adkins Lane between 10am and 3pm.

The council hopes to use ideas to help shape a bid it intends to make for Lottery funding.

Thirteen teachers suspended in year

THIRTEEN teachers were suspended from Sandwell schools in the past yea.

Ten were suspended over child protection issues, two for gross misconduct, and one for bullying or harassment.

The figures for 2009/10 are almost double that of the previous year, when seven teachers were suspended. The Chronicle's sister newspaper the Express & Star obtained the details through a Freedom of Information request to Sandwell Council. But the authority refused to reveal names of teachers involved.

It would not name individual schools or specific details about each incident.

The council declined to say how long the suspensions were for and whether the teachers were sacked or reinstated.

Spokeswoman Lisa Hanlon said: "The council cannot provide details relating to the age and gender of suspended employees, the date of suspension and name of the school. This is due to the fact that only one or, at most, two employees have been suspended at any school within the period. Providing the gender and age, length of suspension and also the name of the school would enable individual teachers to be identified by parents, pupils and colleagues and would therefore amount to a breach of the Data Protection Act 1998."

Licence application for pub withdrawn

PROPOSALS which would have granted a 24-hour licence to one of West Bromwich's most notorious pubs have been withdrawn at a meeting of Sandwell's licensing panel.

Thynne Enterprises Ltd had submitted an application to Sandwell Council's licensing department to turn former pub The Marksman, in High Street, Carters Green, into a pub and restaurant called Cinnamon Spice.

The pub, which once sold the cheapest pint in the country, was owned by Belal Hussain's Millionnaires Club Ltd. However, it was put on the market in the summer after the company folded.

Last week an application to vary the licence, to split the pub into a bar and restaurant and also to have a 24-hour license given was withdrawn.

A new application is likely to be submitted at a later date.

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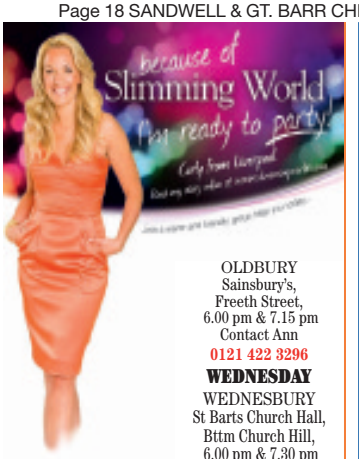

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Another chance to look at school plans

PARENTS in Smethwick are to be give a further chance to comment on Sandwell Council plans to redevelop Shireland Hall Primary School, as part of a multi-million pound scheme to provide extra school places.

The proposal is to build a new state-of-the-art replacement school,which would require the council to seek planning permission, on the adjacent green space in Montague Road.

Issues

The first consultation meeting took place in June where the scheme received overwhelming support from parents, although a number of local residents voiced some concerns.

As a result the proposed scheme has been adapted to address most of the issues raised while still maintaining the increased provision on site.

The plans will be revealed during a further consultation process in the near future.

Council leader Councillor Darren Cooper said: "Like many other areas across the country, Sandwell has experienced big increases in the birth rate and the need for additional school places across the borough is of paramount importance.

"Expanding the school to 90 places in each year group will help to meet the demand for places in the Soho/Victoria ward.

"The council is undertaking this consultation exercise to ensure we can meet the needs of the local community."

"Parents, staff and members of the local community will be advised of the second consultation event later in the autumn term, when revised plans will be available for discussion."

Singer Connie to light up town

Singing sensation Connie Talbot

BRITAIN'S Got Talent finalist Connie Talbot will be helping Sandwell's Mayor to switch on the Christmas lights in Wednesbury later this month.

The fun starts at 5pm on Friday, November 26, when Connie will join Mayor Councillor Pauline Hinton to flick the switch in Market Place.

Nine-year-old Connie, from Streetly, rose to fame after her performances of Somewhere Over The Rainbow melted the judges' hearts on Britain's Got Talent in 2007.

She was narrowly beaten in the competition by opera singer Paul Potts.

Connie will be singing for the crowds, meeting fans and signing copes of her latest CD at the event, which will finish at around 9pm.

Choirs

The light switch-on will be followed by entertainment including bands, singers, school choirs, bhangra dancing, dhol drummers and a performance from Wednesbury Boys Brigade. There will also be Pat Collins' funfair, a Christmas Market, plus a visit by Father Christmas and a clown.

Lead member for Wednesbury Cllr Geoff Lewis said: "It will be an honour for Wednesbury's Christmas lights to be switched on by Connie and everyone is really looking forward to what will be a really fun evening of entertainment."

Shooting pub loses licence

THE Vietnam Bar in Smethwick has been stripped of its licence.

Police took the bar to a licensing review after two men were shot at the pub in Wellington Street on October 3. The pub has been closed since.

At the hearing, which took place earlier this month, licensing bosses heard evidence from officers of a catalogue of offences at the pub. They included a shooting in April 2008 and a drugs bust in April 2009 which found £80,000 in cash at the premises.

Acting Superintendent Andy Beard said: "The Vietnam club, since the beginning of this year, poses the most significant threat of guns and gangs across the whole of Sandwell."

"This is a great result for both police and the local community, who have been plagued by crime and disorder linked to the bar."

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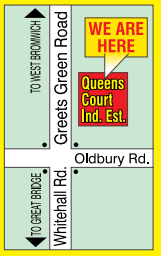

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With Woody Bear from left, is Adam Cox, four, from Smethwick, PCSOs Julie Wright and Harjinder Kalsi, and library supervisor Julie McKirdy

Police support craft club

A LIBRARY in Smethwickhas set up a weekend craft club for youngsters thanks to a £500 grant fromthe police.

The Woody Bear Club, named in honour of the library's mascot, will now run every Saturday from 11am-12noon at Thimblemill Library. The aim of the club is to get children under seven to be creative and use the Thimblemill Lane library.

Library supervisor Julie McKirdy said: "I'm so grateful and happy we got £500 from the police to start the club. It's really important to get youngsters using the library from an early age.

"The police give a lot of funding to local community groups and I am really pleased that we were lucky with our application for funding."

Facelift at block of flats

A 50-year-old formerly condemned block of flats in Tipton will be given a £2.75 million facelift after receiving Government funding.

The works will be carried out at Nelson House, on Upper Church Lane in Princes End by Sandwell Homes.

The improvements are due to take place next year and it is hoped they will give the building, which has 34 flats, a 30-year life span.

Under plans, contractors will build two new flats on the ground floor, a new front entrance and replace the felt roof of the high-rise block with aluminium sheeting and refit balcony panels with more modern, coloured laminate panels.

Investment

Simon Parry, spokesman for Sandwell Homes, said: "Expected investment is in the region of £2.75 million. The project is currently in the design stages and a residents consultation event took place in June 2010.

"The council is currently exploring feasibility for creating two new lifetime homes in the space currently used for residents' storage areas. This decision has yet to be finalised."

Existing features of the nine-storey building will also be refurbished including kerbs, drainage and fittings. Insulated cladding on the outside of the building will also be refitted.

Eleven other condemned tower blocks in Sandwell were saved from demolition and will now be expanded in a bid to tackle soaring demand for council housing.

Quiz helps animals

THE RSPCA Birmingham Animal Centre is holding its autumn quiz at The Proverbial in Harborne at 7pm tonight (Thursday).

There are prizes for the winning team and a raffle too. All money raised will go towards looking after the animals at the centre. The cost is just £5 per person, including food. Teams can be up to eight. Contact Nikki Carr on either 07867 786113 or email nj_carr@hotmail.com.

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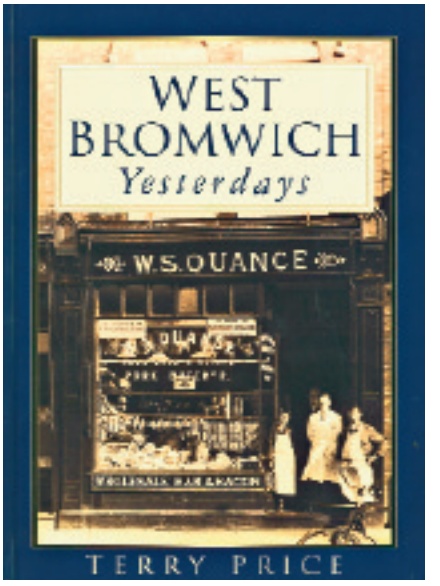

Pictured clockwise from top left:

Star of top 1960s TV soap opera Crossroads, Noele Gordon (who played motel owner Meg Richardson) meets the Mayor and Mayoress of West Bromwich, Councillor Joshua Churchman JP and his wife Violet, with Cllr George Hawkins at the Gough Arms in Jowetts Lane, where the celebrity was meeting pensioners on January 3, 1967. Noele Gordon is seen holding the hand of 82-year-old Amy Carless of Mesty Croft, Wednesbury.

Contestants in the Miss Conex-Sanbra competition at the firm's social club in Whitehall Road on April 10, 1970, it may have been a new decade but short hemlines were still in.

The cover of Terry Price's fascinating new book.

The ladies' keep fit team pictured during the annual sports day at Walsall Conduits Ltd in Dial Lane on July 9, 1966.

The 'Golden Mile', West Bromwich High Street in 1962.

West Bromwich Boys' Club FC pictured during the 1966/7 season: Back from left, Glyn Bates, Jimmy Freeth, Terry Johnson, Stanley Richards, John Hodgetts, Mick Jones; front from left, Pat Blackham, Maurice Johnson, John Meek, Michael Bates, Graham Turner.

Back to the 60s

IN our third look at West Bromwich historian Terry Price's nostalgic pictorial feast of images from his home town's past, we go back to the swinging 1960s – the age of beehive hair-dos and The Beatles.

This is just a selection of the photographs highlighting memories of West Bromwich from the late Victorian period to the 1980s.

The hardback book is in a limited edition of 2,500 and, unlike his previous volumes, will not be available in paperback.

The author is selling them for the introductory price of £9.99. To buy a copy contact Mr Price on 01922 635891.

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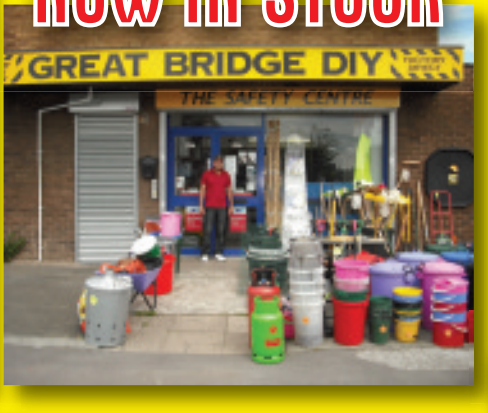

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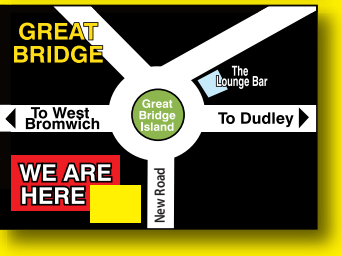

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Band of Joy days are remembered

PANEL beater Harry Barber has recalled his days ferrying Robert Plant, John Bonham and the Band of Joy to concerts across the country.

Harry, born and bred in West Bromwich, hung up his overalls to join up with the flower power group in 1966.

The band went on to develop into Led Zeppelin, one of the biggest rock bands ever.

Now the father-of-three has put pen to paper remembering his time spent with the band, in particular the battle of personalities on the tour bus.

Plant is now peforming again with a new version of the Band of Joy, appearing last week at the BBC Electric Proms.

But Harry, who was born on the Tantany Estate, remembers the singer and his contemporaries from their youth in West Bromwich.

He said: "We hung out in the same places: The Adelphi ballroom, the Three Horseshoes pub in High Street, and Casa Bambu, the coffee bar opposite the old Kings cinema.

Line-up

"I was working as a panel beater and their van was damaged. I took them around in my old van.

"I was taking them around the Regan circuit in Birmingham, which included the Old Hill Plaza, Rookery Road Plaza and Handsworth Ritz at first but we went all over in the end."

Harry's book, called The Band of Joy, chronicles his experience with the band, which would last until August 1968.

While lead guitarist Vernon Pereira formed the first Band of Joy, the group's line-up changed several times and his book details how different personalities mixed.

Robert Plant today

Robert Plant, Vernon Pereira, Pete Robinson, Chris Brown and roadie Dennis Ashfield in the very first Band of Joy in April 1967

Harry, who now lives in North Wales with wife Roz, said: "I remember we did a tour in Scotland in August 1967 and Robert Plant did not go because he had been sidelined from the group. He had a disagreement with the other members so they went without him."

The band had been playing a gig in the Ship and Rainbow pub in Wolverhampton when the members broke the news.

Harry said: "Plant came back on the stage and he said 'all the flowers will wither and die and go away but the plant will be back'."

Plant would later rejoin the band in October 1967, and he would soon meet Bonham, later the Led Zeppelin drummer.

Mr Barber remembered the love-hate relationship between the pair. "We were on our way to RAF Steeford, in Lincoln, and they had been going on at each other the whole way so I stopped the van and kicked them out," he said.

"I told them to sort it out before they got back in. They were always arguing."

Though its members would later go on to greater fame, Mr Barber said the Band of Joy blazed a trail for modern music.

"It was one of the first bands to have two guitarists, keyboards and one frontman – more like the modern four-piece," Harry said. "They were years ahead of their time."

Memories – Harry Barber

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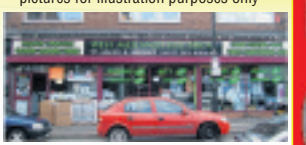

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Members of the cast of Spring and Port Wine, from left, Sandra Haynes, Roddy Lynch, Jamie Williams, Dan Payne (centre standing), Bhupinder K Dhamu, Niko Adilypour, Sue Lynch

Northern comedy is family affair at Highbury theatre

CLASSIC Northern comedy Spring And Port Wine, by Bill Naughton, is being staged by Highbury Theatre Centre in Sutton Coldfield.

A rebellious daughter clashes with a stubborn father over dinner in the play set in Bolton during the 1950s.

The long-suffering mother is played by Sue Lynch who will be action opposite her real life son Roddy.

The play features members of the main theatre group and the Highbury Youth Theatre.

It is one of the favourite plays of director John Brenan. He said: "It reminds me of the times in which the story is set and reminiscent of my own father."

The play is being staged at Highbury Theatre Centre on Sheffield Road, Boldmere, until November 20.

Tickets cost £10 (£9 concessions). Contact the box office on (0121) 373 2761.

Mists, moors and mystery as Holmes hunts hound

Elementary my dear Doctor.... Dave Wager as Watson keeps a watch on the villain as Holmes (played by Matt Banwell) ponders the mystery

OLDBURY Rep is set to chill the bones with a famous tale of moors, mists, menace and mystery – The Hound of the Baskervilles by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.

It is one of the most famous cases for Sherlock Holmes and Dr Watson as they must take on a cunning and evil villain who will stop at nothing to claim what he believes is his birthright.

Prowling

Sherlock and co will be prowling the imaginary moor at the Barlow Theatre nightly through to Saturday.

Tickets cost £7.50 (concessions £6.50) and are available from the box office from 7pm on performance nights, call (0121) 552 2761.

Directed by Sheila Carradine, the play also features Andrew Hill as Sir Henry Baskerville, Gary Cooper and Marie Belfort as Jack and Kathy Stapleton.

Oldbury Rep's next production is their panto Cinderella from January 14 to 22.

Going crazy for a Gershwin musical

CRADLEY Heath Amateur Operatic Society players will be performing their latest production, the Gershwin musical Crazy For You, at the Civic Hall in Brierley Hill, until Saturday, November 13.

It stars Liz Woodhouse as Polly Baker, a feisty but impoverished cowgirl who is wooed by Garry Holloway as wannabe song-and-dance man Bobby Child. The show is packed with classic Gershwin tunes, including I Got Rhythm.

Tickets costing from £10.50 to £12 are available through the box office on (0121) 5857380.

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thechronicle COMPETITION

Show time so get set to party

CLOTHES Show Live 2010 is back to host the hottest and most stylish fashion and beauty event of the year!

The show returns to Birmingham's NEC, from December 3-8 bringing together hundreds of your favourite fashion and beauty brands and boutiques; non-stop catwalk shows and the UK's hottest celebrities.

It's the ultimate shopping destination this party season. And what's more, you could be going for free. Clothes Show Live is teaming up with the Chronicles to give 10 readers the chance to win a pair of tickets.

Inspirational

Whether you're looking for the ideal girls' day out, inspiration for the Christmas party season or a chance to see the impressive dance and catwalk shows, Clothes Show Live has it all.

This year's 45-minute Fashion Theatre performance with 40 models and dancers will set the party season off in true style – packed with 250 fabulous outfits and inspirational hair and make-up looks. There is no other show quite like it.

New to this year's show is the 'Sknitch' zone, where you can watch presentations and demonstrations, learn new techniques, browse through beautiful fabrics and gain insight into everything related to sewing, knitting, needlework, stitching and embroidery.

Customisation is back and Sknitch is the place for every lady to tailor her individual fashion needs!

Running alongside Clothes Show Live is the exciting new dance experience – The Dance Show. Pick up advice, take part in classes and get your groove on at what is set to be the most spectacular dance event of the year.

From Friday (3)- Sunday (5) only, makeover wizard Gok Wan will be presenting in Clothes Show Live's Fashion Theatre before 40 hot male and female models take to the stage for a high octane catwalk showcase.

Performing in the Fashion Theatre across the six days will be the UK's hottest new boy band Inju5tice.

Ready to take the charts by storm, Inju5tice will perform to an 180,000 strong audience before the catwalk extravaganza begins.

Combining fashion, dance and music, the Fashion Theatre will come alive as the lads perform a single from their ambitious debut album, World's Most Wanted.

CLOTHES SHOW LIVE
3-8 DECEMBER 2010
NEC BIRMINGHAM

YOUR CHANCE TO WIN

To stand a chance of winning win a pair of tickets simply answer this question.

What is the name of the makeover wizard?

Send your answers to Clothes Show Competition, Chronicle series (editorial), 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES. Closing date: Thursday, November 18. Usual rules apply. Editor's decision is final.

For more show details go to clotheshowlive.com Tickets are available online at clothesshowlive.com or call 0844 581 1256.

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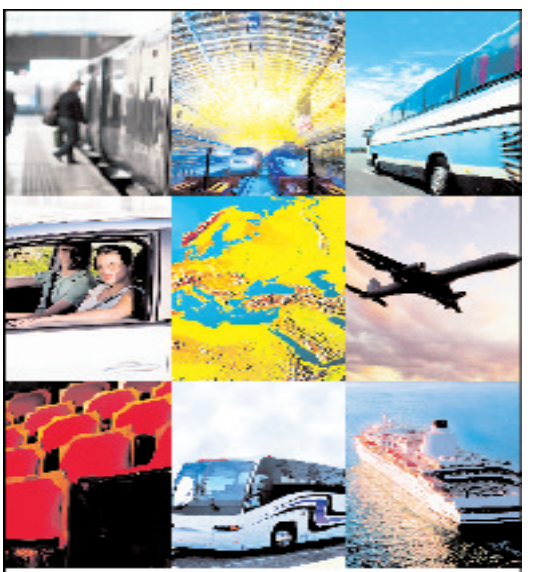

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Tips to keep homes secure as Fort Knox

Crime Prevention expert PC Mark Ledo with some of the security gadgets that can keep burglars at bay.

Extend the height of garden fences and place deterrents over gates to deter intruders.

This door handle sensor sounds an alarm the second someone places their hand on the external door handle.

It may be a contender for the West Midlands' answer to Fort Knox however its defences don't protect gold bullion reserves, but ordinary household treasures and now visitors can still pick up invaluable crime prevention tips by visiting the specially adapted home.

West Midlands Police's 'security show home' – in Chester Road near Brownhills Police Station – is packed with the latest home security devices and cunning crime prevention techniques to keep burglars at bay.

It's the only one of its kind in the region and features everything from advanced alarm systems and window locks to prickly plants and 'dummy' dictionaries which are actually money boxes.

There's even an intruder detection system that activates a smoke bomb to greet any unwelcome guests.

Crime Prevention Officer Mark Ledo manages the security show home. He regularly acts as tour guide for members of the public, including Neighbourhood Watch and Residents Association groups, who want to pick up home security tips.

Prevention

He said: "The house really helps increase understanding of security issues. You can only convey so much through a leaflet or poster, but seeing crime prevention tactics at work in a home environment raises awareness significantly.

"The home isn't just filled with expensive gadgets: many devices, such as timer switches for lights, cost just a few pounds yet can vastly improve home security by giving the impression your home is occupied when you're out. Simple tips like this are vital during the winter months' darker nights. The main message is 'don't advertise your home to burglars' by letting them know you're out and that your house is an easy target."

The security show home has received more than 6,000 visitors since it opened in 2005. Mark also trains police officers and officials from partner agencies, plus social workers and carers who can pass on information to residents.

Its reputation has built over the years with other police forces visiting the house, including Greater Manchester, Kent and Northern Ireland.

Mark is keen to hear from community groups who would like to tour the facility. He can accommodate between 15 and 30 people per visit which includes a tour of the house and a presentation.

Groups can contact Mark directly on 0345 113 5000 (ext: 7881 6596) or email m.ledo@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk

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GAMES

thechronicle

Be a superstar DJ on the wheels of steel

DJ HERO 2 (12, ACTIVISION)

DJ Hero was a breakthrough rhythm game for 2009, allowing all those wanna-be DJs to hit the decks whilst essentially following the mechanics of other instrument-based rhythm games, like Guitar Hero or Rock Band.

A turntable controller with a spinning platter and three colour-coded buttons is your main method of mimicking the scratches and sound effects in each mix and a crossfader and effects dial are used in more advanced techniques.

The big improvement for 2010 is the inclusion of freestyle sampling, crossfading and scratching during segments of the mix, which has greatly increased the playability and fun factor. Plus the ability to import your own Xbox Live avatar, which really help make it feel like you own those mixes.

The DJ battle system, either via online multi-player or through two turntable controllers, has been tweaked and expanded too.

Add to that a soundtrack at your fingertips which is clubbers' heaven (from Grandmaster Flash to Lady Gaga via Basement Jaxx and The Prodigy) and the pick of the world's best clubs for your virtual surroundings, and you can have great fun kidding yourself that you're a superstar DJ.

DJ Hero 2 was reviewed on X360 but is also available for Wii and PS3

All this scratching will be making you itch – taking your turn on the turntable in DJ Hero 2, which is even more fun than last year's original

DIVINITY II: THE DRAGON KNIGHT SAGA (12, FOCUS)

THE original Ego Draconis, in revamped form, plus new adventure Flames of Vengeance make this a pretty hefty role playing fantasy package for those looking for an alternative to Fable III.

On the plus side, Rivellon is a well-realised world with its population of monsters, wizards and warriors. The quests are deep and will keep dedicated gamers occupied for hours. On the minus, the graphics disappoint, the animation sometimes having a blurry PS2 look and there are frequent delays between scenes.

Reviewed on X360, also available for PC.

WRC FIA WORLD RALLY CHAMPIONSHIP (12, BLACK BEAN)

NO frills, no flash and certainly not as fun as Dirt 2, however, there is something rather compelling about this vanilla-only rally sim. Perhaps it's to do with the roar of the engine or the urgent instructions of your navigator.

You can take part in all 13 rallies in the 2010 FIA World Rally Championship or hone your skills in the three support categories, and take your pick from a host of cars. The game is compatible with a force feedback wheel and you can take your race online to challenge up to 15 other wannabe rally aces.

Reviewed on X360, also available for PS3 and PC.

ALIEN BREED 2: ASSAULT (16, TEAM 17)

AVAILABLE on Xbox Live Arcade for 800 Microsoft Points, this is a so-so sci-fi shooter. Your are on board an alien spaceship, trying to power up this and shut off that whilst being menaced by bug-like monsters which, of course, you despatch with an awesome display of firepower.

Made by the same company behind the ever-popular Worms franchise, AB2 has lots of detail but I found the 'from above' viewpoint irritating and the gameplay – simple task, kill aliens, simple task, kill aliens – rapidly became tedious. OK, if you like running around corridors zapping nasties.

REVIEWS BY LEON BURAKOWSKI

PSP EXCLUSIVE: GOD OF WAR: GHOST OF SPARTA (18, SONY)

THE follow up to Chains of Olympus offers another epic storyline steeped in Greek mythology and featuring thrilling, brutal battles with the ancient world's fiercest and most fantastic creatures.

Spartan warrior Kratos has become the new God of War but before he can take his place among the immortals on Mount Olympus he first has to go on a quest to discover the source of the nightmares that plague him – a journey into his own dark past.

Anyone who is already a fan of the God of War franchise knows what to expect– frenetic, intense action and gob-smacking graphics, alongside some puzzle-solving to keep the grey cells active. They won't be disappointed by bigger bosses, loads more enemies, new weapons and combat moves, and probably the best graphics yet seen on the PSP.

It's an action-packed Greek myths epic in the palm of your had... what's not to like!

LEISURE

Cradley Heath chainmakers Brian and Ros Cartwright of Griffin Woodhouse Ltd

Photographer captures everyday life in borough

AN exhibition charting the life of everyday people in the Black Country is going on display at West Bromwich arts venue The Public this week.

Renowned photographer Martin Parr has spent a year documenting the day-to-day life of people living in and around Sandwell, which has resulted in a display of 668 prints capturing the mix of communities in the area. It covers shops, businesses and places of worship.

Black Country Stories was commissioned by West Bromwich-based arts agency Multistory and opens at the New Street gallery today (Thursday).

Mr Parr said he had been astounded by the cultural diversity in Sandwell.

The course of his work has taken Mr Parr, who lives in Bristol, from the St George's Day march in West Bromwich to sampling sweets at Teddy Gray's in Dudley.

He also called in on Cradley Heath chainmakers Griffin Woodhouse Ltd. "I hope people are just curious to see how someone from the outside looks at their own community," he added.

Photographer Martin Parr setting up his exhibition

Stacey is replaced at concert

R&B SINGER Lemar, who got his big break on TV's Fame Academy, is replacing former X Factor finalist Stacey Solomon as top of the bill for the Join The Stars concert at Wolverhampton Civic Hall on December 1.

Stacey, fron Dagenham in Essex, has pulled out after joining the line-up for TV's I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here.

The rest of the concert line-up includes comedy dancers Stavros Flatley from Britain's Got Talent and street dance group DNA, alongside Black Country comedienne Our Trace and six local acts competing for the Help The Dream Trophy.

One of the organisers, Gail Reynolds said: "Last week (the show) almost became a casualty of I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here as our main act Stacey Solomon was summoned to the jungle. We wish her all the best but were devastated at the time as it has left us with less than for weeks to decide whether we could rescue the show. However we can hardly contain our excitement that one of the UK's greatest vocalists Lemar is now heading the line up. This show is a great way to start the Christmas season, has a real feel good factor about it and is a fun and entertaining night out for everyone. In addition, if successful, it will be supporting local talent and three very worthwhile charities, Leukaemia Research, Save the Children and Re-entry."

Those who want to return their tickets because Ms Solomon is no longer appearing should return them to point of purchase.

Dee set to chair Grand night out

COMEDIAN Jack Dee is due to be the chairman when a stage version of BBC Radio 4 'antidote to panel games' I'm Sorry I Haven't A Clue comes to Wolverhampton Grand Theatre on Monday.

Also joining him for what's set to be a sell-out one-nighter at the Lichfield Street theatre are former Goodies Graeme Garden and Tim Brooke Taylor, veteran comedy writer Barry Cryer, and Jeremy Hardy.

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Business in Focus — **Commercial Feature**

Maintain your independence

Factfile

Company
Harborne Parish Lands Charity

Type of Business
Sheltered housing for people living within the parish of Harborne

Established
1623 – Firs Close opened in 1991

Contact
Helen Wright

Location
Firs Close,
Watery Lane,
Smethwick
B67 6DQ
Call: 0121 426 1600

Website
www.harborneparishlandscharity.org.uk

THE Harborne Parish Lands Charity was founded 400 years ago as an Almshouse charity.

Today it provides sheltered housing, mainly for the elderly who live within the charity's area, which includes Harborne and Quinton in Birmingham and Smethwick in the West Midlands.

Firs Close has 33 one-bedroomed flats, each with its own front door.

The flats each have a double bedroom with plenty of storage space, a sitting room, kitchen and shower room.

There are pull cords in each room which provide 24 hour assistance.

Support is provided by scheme manager who is on site five days a week, and facilities include lifts, a laundry, guest flat and a community room.

Firs Close was built in 1991 and has recently been redecorated.

Sheltered housing can offer a range of services to help you live independently with the added security of having someone to call on in emergencies.

The scheme manager has daily contact and is on site 9am to 5.00pm.

Each time a flat becomes available they are fully redecorated.

Flats are fully electric with no gas used and a cooker and fridge freezer are provided.

The sheltered housing scheme offers a safe and secure environment with an active social life for those who want it.

We help people who want to live independently with little support and also those who want to live independently but who are in need of extra support.

Residents can take part in communal events supplied throughout the year, and on a more regular basis, bingo, coffee mornings, afternoon teas and other social events and activities.

Facilities available include a guest room which can be hired for family and friends.

There are communal laundry facilities and an enclosed garden area.

If moving to one of the properties appeals to you, call and let staff look after your needs. There will be no more concerns about looking after the garden and maintenance of your home.

Facilities

Nearby, there is a busy high street with shops; regular local bus service; health centre and leisure facilities.

If you live in Smethwick, Harborne or parts of Quinton and Bearwood you can apply for accommodation.

Consideration can also be given to people who live outside the area in certain circumstances. Contact Helen on: 0121 426 1600 for an application form or visit the website www.harborneparishlandscharity.org.uk

In order to be considered applicants should be:

- disabled and mature
- over 55 years and in need.
- currently living within the parish of Harborne
- in housing need on low incomes
- Have savings of less than £150,000 (including value of property)

Applicants are assessed by the trustees following a visit from the housing team. Successful applicants will then be offered accommodation.

The charity's other current housing schemes are:

Harborne Cottages, Smethwick

A pretty scheme of 16 cottages, with a communal room and two laundries. Built in 1927 around a central lawn. There is a support worker who visits five days a week.

Harborne House, Harborne

31 one-bedroom flats and one 2-bedroomed flat, built in two phases 1974 and 1984. Harborne House has a community room, 2 lifts, guest accommodation and two laundries. There is a scheme caretaker and a support worker

Larksfield, Smethwick

10 sunny one-bedroomed flats including four suitable for wheelchair users, with a support worker who visits daily. The ground floor flats have doors onto the garden. There is a lift and all flats have emergency pull cords. Built in 1996.

Dore House, Harborne

A conversion of a lovely old house into to six one-bedroomed flats, with a visiting support worker and a caretaker. Each flat has emergency pull cords and there is a lift, first let in 1996.

Live an independent life, thanks to The Harborne Parish Lands Charity

Firs Close has 33 one-bedroomed flats, each with its own front door

FIRS CLOSE
Sheltered housing

Harborne Parish Lands Charity
Providing a service for those in need

Firs Close first opened in 1991 to provide housing for people living within the ancient parish of Harbourne

Firs Close is made up of 33 one bedroomed flats, the bedroom having fitted wardrobes, kitchen with cooker and fridge/freezer, bathroom with disability facilities, lounge, and storage space.

Firs Close currently have flats available and are looking for new residents who are over 55 and in need, elderly or mature disabled persons in housing need on low incomes and people who are currently living within the Harbourne, Smethwick and surrounding areas.

Flats are spacious and couples as well as single people can apply.

For more information contact Helen on the number below

Firs Close, Watery Lane,
Smethwick B67 6DQ

0121 426 1600

the pulse

Check out the latest CDs – page 42

And whatever next Miss Goldfrapp?

OVER 10 years and five albums the genre-mashing Goldfrapp, the duo featuring corkscrew-haired singer Alison Goldfrapp and bearded muso Will Gregory, have gone from the icy operatic mood music of Mercury Prize-nominated debut Felt Mountain to the joyous disco pop of this year's Head First album.

Coming to Birmingham's O2 Academy on Sunday (14) with their full band as part of a nine-date UK tour, fans will be looking for hints at the next genre to be revamped by Goldfrapp or the latest image to be adopted by the 44-year-old chameleon songstress from Hampshire. In the past she has performed dressed as a futuristic air hostess, or in a flowing gown, or ABBA style jump suit, demonstrating a David Bowie-like flair for reinvention.

Her retro leaning blend of disco and glam rock, with hints of classic FM rock on the new album, has yielded a host of hit singles, including Ooh La La, Number One, Ride A White Horse, Caravan Girl, Rocket and Alive. Recently the duo have been working with A-list diva Christina Aguilera.

Fans will be going into the Birmingham venue eagerly anticipating what the glamorous and unpredictable Miss Goldfrapp will do next.

Fans will be heading for Birmingham eagerly anticipating what the glamorous and unpredictable Alison Goldfrapp will do next

Model Momsen Taylor made to light up Wulfrun

RISING American rock stars The Pretty Reckless, fronted by teenage movie actress and model Taylor Momsen, make their first visit to the Black Country for a gig at the Wulfrun Hall in Wolverhampton on Wednesday, December 15.

In 2000, the now 17-year-old, Momsen played little Cindy Lou Hoo opposite Jim Carrey as The Grinch and nearly pipped Miley Cyrus to become Disney's Hannah Montana. However, going to a White Stripes gig changed her musical taste and she now cites Led Zeppelin, Nirvana and Oasis as her major musical influences, she certainly has a rawer rock voice than her Disney pop girl contemporaries.

She was recently in cult TV show Gossip Girl and Taylor was also the face of fashion chain New Look for their spring/summer 2010 collection.

She and her New York based band got an enthusiastic welcome at the V Festival in August,the time their debut album Light Me Up was released.

YOUR EIGHT-PAGE ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE AND WEEK'S TV VIEWING

Cinema preview on page 42

Check out theatre line-up – page 37

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	9.30 am-10.30 am	12-1 pm	1 pm-3 pm	3.30 pm-6 pm	7 pm-8 pm	7.30 pm-8.30 pm
Monday				WOODY'S AFTER SCHOOL CLUB Every school day. After school till 6 pm £5 per child per day	Every week KICKBOXING Time varies	
Tuesday					Every week ZUMBA	
Wednesday						First Wednesday of every month Councillor's Surgery
Thursday	ZUMBA EVENING		MONTHLY TEA DANCE last Thursday of month@ West Bromwich Town Hal		Every week KICKBOXING Time varies	
Friday		Every week Extend Classes £1 COST				
Saturday		YOUTH CLUB COMING SOON. Call for info.				
Events for your Diary		WOODY'S HOLIDAY PLAY SCHEME. Excludes Christmas	12-11-10 @ Wood Lane Tea Dance and Bingo	20-11-10 7 pm 60's Night Live Band Run Devils Run £5 Admission inc. food @ Wood Lane	1-12-10 Blackpool Trip 25 inc. Christmas lunch and entertainment. Leaves Woodland 7.30 am	

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Four couples, three bedrooms one row – and that illicit kiss

THEATRE

REAL-LIFE husband and wife team Juliet Mills and Maxwell Caulfield will star in Peter Hall's critically-acclaimed production of Bedroom Farce, one of Alan Ayckbourn's most popular comedies, at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre from Tuesday to Saturday following its recent run in London's West End.

Juliet Mills' prolific career highlights include Wild at Heart, Oh! What a Lovely War, The Elephant Man and Billy Wilder's Avanti! for which she was nominated for a Golden Globe for Best Actress.

Her Hollywood husband Maxwell Caulfield is best known for his starring roles in Dynasty, The Colbys and Grease 2. Most recently Caulfield played smooth-talking millionaire Mark Wylde in Emmerdale, whose dramatic demise created one of the biggest soap storylines of last year.

The cast also features Bruce Montague, a renowned TV and theatre actor whose credits include playing Leonard in Carla Lane's sit com Butterflies; Clare Wilkie, a soap regular who played Sandra Di Marco in EastEnders; Oliver Boot, a prolific theatre actor whose TV credits include Holby City, Two Pints of Lager and a Packet of Crisps and Hotel Babylon; Julia Mallam and Ayden Callaghan who are best known for their roles as Dawn Woods and Miles De Souza in Emmerdale.

Juliet Mills is to star in Bedroom Farce at the Grand

The action focuses on four couples in three bedrooms, with two celebrations, one blazing row and an illicit kiss (or two).

Musical sci-fi spoof Return To The Forbidden Plant is presented by Bilston Operatic Company at the Grand until Saturday.

Scaramouche Jones is back by popular demand at Wolverhampton's Arena Theatre, where a sold-out production got standing ovations two years ago. An eloquent blend of drama, comedy and brutality, it follows Jones' globe-trotting odyssey as the son of a prostitute in the West Indies, via Africa and Venice to a concentration camp in Nazi-occupied Poland and then England 1999. It is staged tonight (Thurs).

Canteen

Mig Theatre bring Kiss Me Like You Mean It, a poignant and controversial play by Torchwood and Doctor Who writer Chris Chibnall, which is set during a party in a Manchester terraced house, at the Arena tomorrow (Fri). It is described as not suitable for children.

Penny Dreadful present The Missionary's Position, a comedy about a 1930s comedian turned clergyman who got too close to the prostitutes he was trying to 'save' , on Tuesday.

The Dinner Lady Man, staged by Something And Nothing at the Arena on Wednesday (17), tells of a middle-aged former builder who causes consternation when he joins the all-female staff at a school canteen. Gerald Logan performs Shakespeare's narrative poem the Rape of Lucrece, about the impact of the terrible crime on victim and perpetrator, at the Arena on Thursday (18).

Andrew Lloyd Webber and Don Black's 1981 song cycle Tell Me On A Sunday, originally a star vehicle for Marti Webb, has been remodeled for Liverpudlian singer and actress Claire Sweeney. The short show, it lasts just over an hour, is about an English woman searching for love in America. It is staged for one night only at Birmingham's Alexandra Theatre on Tuesday.

It is a week of one-nighters at the Alex including tomorrow (Fri) Motown on Tour, a tribute to the legendary soul label; Sunday, Young Gifted & Phat, Blue Mountain's play is a comedy drama set at a Jamaican beauty pageant for the larger lady.

Welsh National Opera present Mozart's The Magic Flute at Birmingham Hippodrome tonight (Thurs) and on Saturday. Dominic Cooke's fantastical two hour and 50 minutes production features fabulous beasts. WNO tomorrow (Fri) present a new production of Beethoven's Fidelio. Giuseppe Frigeni's powerful prison-set production will be sung in German with English surtitles.

The Hippodrome will then go dark to prepare for festive treat, Birmingham Royal Ballet's Cinderella, which opens on November 24. BRB Director David Bintley's new production of the classic fairy tale, with music by Prokofiev, marks the company's 20th anniversary year based in Birmingham.

Birmingham Stage Company bring Phillip Pullman's children's fantasy The Firework Maker's Daughter to the stage at Birmingham Old Rep, in Station Street, until November 28. Tinker's Farm Opera stage a new version of The Merry Widow at The Crescent Theatre in Birmingham nightly to Saturday.

Two hard-hitting plays are presented at Birmingham Repertory Theatre until Saturday. In the main house The Big Fellah tells of a New York fireman who joins the IRA; whilst The Royal Court's controversial new play The Author is a savage satire on modern theatre.

A giant running machine is the stage for The Bobby Sands Memorial Race at DanceXchange within the Birmingham Hippodrome building tonight (Thu). A combination of modern dance and physical theatre performed by Eddie Ladd, it looks at the life of IRA hunger striker Bobby Sands.

Comedy highlights include a hat-trick for Lee Mack at the Symphony Hall tonight (Thu) and on Saturday and Sunday, and forthright Aussie Jim Jefferies at Birmingham Town Hall on Wednesday (Nov 17).

Oldbury Rep's production of classic Sherlock Holmes mystery The Hound of the Baskervilles continues to Saturday at Langley's Barlow Theatre.

Highbury Theatre Centre stage classic Northern comedy Spring And Port Wine at the Sheffield Road venue in Boldmere, Sutton Coldfield, through to November 20.

Tell Me On A Sunday at the Alex stars Liverpudlian singer and actress Claire Sweeney

NYC sounds at Public

LIVEBOX returns to The Public in West Bromwich on Sunday with a performance by American emceee Why G.

The regular performance arts event, run by Nu Century Arts, embraces live music, poetry, hip hop and dance, offering both emerging and established artists the opportunity to develop and perform their work.

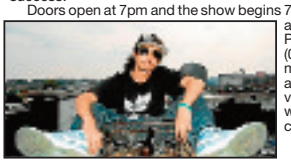
New Yorker Why G (Yogi Guyadin) produces his own original material with a positive vibe.

Nu Century Arts host a number of successful events across the West Midlands, providing a platform for established and emerging artists from the African Caribbean community to become involved in the creative industry.

Urban

Linda Saunders, Managing Director of The Public said :"We're delighted that Nu Century Arts will be bringing their successful LiveBox event to The Public for a third time. Urban music is a hugely popular genre in Sandwell so we expect the night to be a great success."

Doors open at 7pm and the show begins 7.30pm. Tickets are £5, available from The Public box office on (0121) 533 7161. For more information about all events at The Public visit the website at www.thepublic.com or call the box office.



Pictured left: Why G

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SCREEN 2
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LEGEND OF THE GUARDIANS - (PG)
KIDS CLUB - Saturday and Sunday 1200
SCREEN 3
LET ME IN - (15) - FLS
All Week 1550
VAMPIRES SUCK - (12A)
Saturday and Sunday 1400
PARANORMAL ACTIVITY 2 - (15)
All Week 1820 2030
TOY STORY - (U)
KIDS CLUB - Saturday and Sunday 1140
SCREEN 4
BURKE AND HARE - (15)
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the pulse

Monday

BBC1 6.00 Breakfast. 9.15 Rewind the 60s. 10.00 Homes Under the Hammer; BBC News; Weather. 11.00 Cowboy Trap. 11.45 To Buy or Not to Buy; BBC News; Weather. 12.15 Bargain Hunt. 1.00 BBC News; Weather. 1.30 Regional News; Weather. 1.45 Doctors. 2.15 The Indian Doctor. 3.00 BBC News; Weather; Regional News. 3.05 CBBC. 5.15 Weakest Link. 6.00 BBC News; Weather. 6.30 Regional News Programmes; Weather. 7.00 The One Show. 7.30 Inside Out; BBC News; Regional News. 8.00 EastEnders. 8.30 Tax the Fat: Panorama. 9.00 Accused. 10.00 BBC News. 10.25 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 Ask Rhod Gilbert. 11.15 The Graham Norton Show (R) 12.00 Film: Drop Dead Gorgeous. (1999); Weatherview. 1.35 Sign Zone: Remembrance Week. (R) 2.20 The Apprentice. (R) 3.20 MasterChef: The Professionals. (R) 3.50 Restoration Roadshow (R) 4.20 BBC News.

BBC2 6.00 CBeebies. 7.00 CBBC. 8.30 CBeebies. 11.30 Animal Park: Wild in Africa. (R) 12.00 Daily Politics. 12.30 GMT with George Alagiah. 1.00 Dive South. (R) 1.45 Film 2010 with Claudia Winkleman. 2.15 Ben Fogle's Escape in Time. (R) 3.00 Murder, She Wrote. (R) 3.45 Flog It! (R) 4.30 Pointless. 5.15 The Hairy Bikers' Cook Off. 6.00 Eggheads. 6.30 Strictly Come Dancing – It Takes Two. 7.00 Michael Wood's Story of England. 8.00 University Challenge. 8.30 Miranda. 9.00 Giles and Sue Live The Good Life. 10.00 The Trip. 10.30 Newsnight; Weather. 11.20 The Secret Life of the National Grid. 12.20 BBC News. 4.00 BBC Learning Zone.

ITV1 6.00 Daybreak. 8.30 Lorraine. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. 10.30 This Morning. 12.30 Loose Women. 1.30 ITV News; Weather. 1.55 Regional News; Weather. 2.00 Dinner Date. 3.00 Dickinson's Real Deal. 3.50 Regional Weather. 4.00 Midsomer Murders. (R) 5.00 The Alan Titchmarsh Show. 6.00 Regional News; Weather. 6.30 ITV News; Weather. 7.00 Emmerdale. 7.30 Coronation Street. 8.00 Wild Britain with Ray Mears. 8.30 Coronation Street. 9.00 I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here! 10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather. 10.30 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 When Playboys Ruled the World. 12.00 Monte Carlo or Bust (R) 12.50 The Zone; ITV News Headlines. 2.50 UEFA Champions League Weekly. 3.20 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 4.10 ITV Nightscreen. 5.30 ITV Morning News.

Channel 4 6.10 Sell Mall. (R) 6.15 The Treacle People. (R) 6.30 Planet Cook. (R) 6.50 Yo Gabba Gabba. (R) 7.15 Freshly Squeezed. 7.45 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.10 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.40 Frasier. (R) 9.10 According to Jim. (R) 9.40 Cook Yourself Thin. (R) 10.10 One Tree Hill. (R) 11.05 Smallville. 12.00 Channel 4 News Summary. 12.05 Supernanny USA. (R) 12.55 Film: The Comancheros. (1961) Western, starring John Wayne. 2.55 Wogan's Perfect Recall. 3.25 Countdown. 4.10 Deal or No Deal. 5.00 Come Dine with Me. 5.30 Celebrity Coach Trip. 6.00 The Simpsons. (R) 6.30 Hollyoaks. 7.00 Channel 4 News. 7.55 4thought.tv. 8.00 Dispatches: Riding Europe's Gravy Train. 9.00 Coppers. 10.00 Chris Moyles' Quiz Night. 10.55 Ramsay's Best Restaurant: The Finals. (R) 1.00 Freeze Festival 2010. 1.30 Premier League Poker. 2.25 Film: Under the Bombs. (2007) 4.05 Brothers & Sisters. (R) 4.50 ER. (R) 5.35 Hill Street Blues. (R)

Channel Five 6.00 Milkshake! 9.15 The Wright Stuff. 10.45 Trisha Goddard. (R) 11.45 House Doctor. (R) 12.10 House Doctor. (R) 12.40 Five News. 12.45 Emergency Bikers. (R) 1.45 Neighbours. 2.15 Home and Away. 2.50 Rough Guide to Adventures. (R) 3.05 Film: Lost Holiday: The Jim & Suzanne Shemwell Story (2007) Premiere. Fact-based drama, starring Dylan Walsh and Jami Gertz. 5.00 Five News; Weather. 5.30 Neighbours. (R) 6.00 Home and Away. (R) 6.25 Live from Studio Five. 7.00 Five News at 7. 7.30 How Do They Do It?; Five News Update. 8.00 The Gadget Show; Five News at 9. 9.00 Extreme Fishing with Robson Green. 10.00 Film: Black Hawk Down. (2001) Oscar-winning fact-based military drama, with Josh Hartnett. 12.50 SuperCasino. 3.55 House Doctor. (R) 4.20 Emergency Bikers. (R) 5.10 Michaela's Wild Challenge. (R)

Tuesday

BBC1 6.00 Breakfast. 9.15 Rewind the 60s. 10.00 Homes Under the Hammer; BBC News; Weather. 11.00 Cowboy Trap. 11.45 To Buy or Not to Buy; BBC News; Weather. 12.15 Bargain Hunt. 1.00 BBC News; Weather. 1.30 Regional News; Weather. 1.45 Doctors. 2.15 The Indian Doctor. 3.00 BBC News; Weather; Regional News. 3.05 CBBC. 5.15 Weakest Link. 6.00 BBC News; Weather. 6.30 Regional News Programmes; Weather. 7.00 The One Show. 7.30 EastEnders; BBC News; Regional News. 8.00 Holby City. 9.00 Turn Back Time – The High Street. 10.00 BBC News. 10.25 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 Imagine. 11.30 Film: The Mission. (1986) Historical drama, with Robert De Niro and Jeremy Irons; Weatherview. 1.30 Sign Zone: See Hear. (R) 2.00 Remembrance Week. (R) 2.45 MasterChef: The Professionals. (R) 3.15 The Bionic Vet. (R) 4.20 Restoration Roadshow (R) 4.50 BBC News.

BBC2 6.00 CBeebies. 7.00 CBBC. 8.30 CBeebies. 11.30 Animal Park: Wild in Africa. (R) 12.00 Daily Politics. 12.30 GMT with George Alagiah. 1.00 Dive South. (R) 1.45 Car Booty. (R) 2.15 Ben Fogle's Escape in Time. (R) 3.00 Murder, She Wrote. (R) 3.45 Flog It! (R) 4.30 Pointless. 5.15 The Hairy Bikers' Cook Off. 6.00 Eggheads. 6.30 Strictly Come Dancing – It Takes Two. 7.00 Coast. (R) 8.00 Alan Titchmarsh's Garden Secrets. 9.00 Horizon. 10.00 Later Live – with Jools Holland. 10.30 Newsnight; Weather. 11.20 The Secret Life of the National Grid. 12.20 BBC News. 4.00 BBC Learning Zone. (R)

ITV1 6.00 Daybreak. 8.30 Lorraine. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. 10.30 This Morning. 12.30 Loose Women. 1.30 ITV News; Weather. 1.55 Regional News; Weather. 2.00 Dinner Date. 3.00 Dickinson's Real Deal. 3.50 Regional Weather. 4.00 Midsomer Murders. (R) 5.00 The Alan Titchmarsh Show. 6.00 Regional News; Weather. 6.30 ITV News; Weather. 7.00 Emmerdale. 7.30 River Monsters. 8.00 The Zoo. 9.00 I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here! 10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather. 10.30 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 Celebrity Juice: McFly Special. 11.20 Swingtown. 12.15 The Zone; ITV News Headlines. 2.15 The Rockford Files. (R) 3.10 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 4.05 ITV Nightscreen. 5.30 ITV Morning News.

Channel 4 6.25 Sell Mall. (R) 6.30 Planet Cook. (R) 6.50 Yo Gabba Gabba. (R) 7.15 Freshly Squeezed. 7.40 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.10 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.40 Frasier. (R) 9.10 According to Jim. (R) 9.40 Cook Yourself Thin. (R) 10.10 One Tree Hill. (R) 11.05 Smallville. 12.00 Channel 4 News Summary. 12.05 Supernanny USA. (R) 12.50 Film: The Last Command. (1955) Western, starring Sterling Hayden. 2.55 Wogan's Perfect Recall. 3.25 Countdown. 4.10 Deal or No Deal. 5.00 Come Dine with Me. 5.30 Celebrity Coach Trip. 6.00 The Simpsons. (R) 6.30 Hollyoaks. 7.00 Channel 4 News. 7.55 4thought.tv. 8.00 Kirstie's Homemade Home. 9.00 The Family. 10.00 Jimmy Carr Telling Jokes. 11.05 The Big Bang Theory. 11.35 The Big Bang Theory. 12.05 Bill Fam. 12.40 Freeze Festival 2010. 1.30 World B-Boy Series. 1.55 Beach Volleyball. 2.50 NOTV Boxing Weekly. 3.15 World Sport. (R) 3.40 Great East Swim. (R) 4.30 Britain's Favourite Yacht Race. (R) 5.00 Deadliest Catch. (R) 5.45 ER. (R)

Channel Five 6.00 Milkshake! 9.15 The Wright Stuff. 10.45 Trisha Goddard. (R) 11.45 House Doctor. (R) 12.10 House Doctor. (R) 12.40 Five News. 12.45 Emergency Bikers. (R) 1.45 Neighbours. 2.15 Home and Away. 2.50 Rough Guide to Activity Holidays. (R) 3.05 Food for Fearlie 3.10 Film: Dawn Anna. (2005) Drama, starring Debra Winger. 5.00 Five News; Weather. 5.30 Neighbours. (R) 6.00 Home and Away (R) 6.25 Live from Studio Five. 7.00 Five News at 7. 7.30 Street Market Chefs; Five News Update. 8.00 Sea Patrol UK; Five News at 9. 9.00 CSI: Miami. 10.00 CSI: NY. A prisoner requests Hawkes's presence at his execution; (R) Five News Update. 11.00 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. A killer dies in custody. (R) 12.00 NCIS. (R) 1.00 SuperCasino. 3.55 House Doctor. (R) 4.20 Emergency Bikers. (R) 5.10 Michaela's Wild Challenge. (R)

Wednesday

BBC1 6.00 Breakfast. 9.15 Rewind the 60s. 10.00 Homes Under the Hammer; BBC News; Weather. 11.00 Cowboy Trap. 11.45 To Buy or Not to Buy; BBC News; Weather. 12.15 Bargain Hunt. 1.00 BBC News; Weather. 1.30 Regional News; Weather. 1.45 Doctors. 2.15 The Indian Doctor. 3.00 BBC News; Weather; Regional News. 3.05 CBBC. 5.15 Weakest Link. 6.00 BBC News; Weather. 6.30 Regional News Programmes; Weather. 7.00 The One Show. 7.30 Wallace & Gromit's World of Invention; BBC News; Regional News. 8.00 Jimmy's Food Factory. 8.30 Nigel Slater's Simple Suppers. 9.00 The Apprentice. 10.00 BBC News. 10.25 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 The National Lottery Draws. 10.45 Film 2010 with Claudia Winkleman; National Lottery Update. 11.15 Film: The Crossing Guard. (1995); Weatherview. 1.15 Sign Zone: Remembrance Week. (R) 2.00 MasterChef: The Professionals. (R) 3.00 Watchdog. (R) 4.00 Restoration Roadshow. (R) 4.30 BBC News.

BBC2 6.00 CBeebies. 7.00 CBBC. 8.30 CBeebies. 11.30 Daily Politics. 1.00 See Hear. 1.30 Car Booty. (R) 2.15 Ben Fogle's Escape in Time. (R) 3.00 Murder, She Wrote. (R) 3.45 Flog It! (R) 4.30 Pointless. 5.15 The Hairy Bikers' Cook Off. 6.00 Eggheads. (R) 6.30 Strictly Come Dancing – It Takes Two. 7.00 Escape to the Country. (R) 8.00 Edwardian Farm. 9.00 Ancient Worlds. 10.00 The Apprentice: You're Fired! 10.30 Newsnight; Weather. 11.20 The Secret Life of the National Grid. (R) 12.20 BBC News. 4.00 BBC Learning Zone.

ITV1 6.00 Daybreak. 8.30 Lorraine. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. 10.30 This Morning. 12.30 Loose Women. 1.30 ITV News; Weather. 1.55 Regional News; Weather. 2.00 Dinner Date. 3.00 Dickinson's Real Deal. 3.50 Regional Weather. 4.00 Midsomer Murders. (R) 5.00 The Alan Titchmarsh Show. 6.00 Regional News; Weather. 6.30 ITV News; Weather. 7.00 Emmerdale. 7.30 Live International Football: England v France (Kick-off 8.00pm). 10.10 ITV News; Weather. 10.40 Regional News; Weather. 10.45 International Football Highlights. 11.45 Cops with Cameras. (R) 12.40 The Zone; ITV News Headlines. 2.45 Film: Out for Justice. (1991) 4.15 The Jeremy Kyle Show (R) 5.10 ITV Nightscreen. 5.30 ITV Morning News.

Channel 4 6.30 Planet Cook. (R) 6.50 Yo Gabba Gabba. (R) 7.15 Freshly Squeezed. 7.40 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.10 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.40 Frasier. (R) 9.10 According to Jim. (R) 9.40 Cook Yourself Thin. (R) 10.10 One Tree Hill. (R) 11.05 Smallville. 12.00 Channel 4 News Summary. 12.05 River Cottage Bites. 12.15 Jamie at Home. (R) 12.50 Film: Eye of the Needle. (1981) Second World War spy thriller, starring Donald Sutherland. 2.55 Wogan's Perfect Recall. 3.25 Countdown. 4.10 Deal or No Deal. 5.00 Come Dine with Me. 5.30 Celebrity Coach Trip. 6.00 The Simpsons. (R) 6.30 Hollyoaks. 7.00 Channel 4 News. 7.55 4thought.tv. 8.00 Animal Madhouse. 9.00 Grand Designs. 10.00 Rude Tube: Viral Ads. 11.05 The Event. (R) 12.05 Music on 4: On Track. 12.30 Music on 4: The Album Chart Show Introduces Mike Posner. 12.40 Music on 4 4Play: Frankie and the Heartstrings. 12.55 Music on 4: The Album Chart Show Spotlight. 1.05 Film: Lemon Tree. (2008) 2.55 Studio 60 on the Sunset Strip. (R) 3.35 Film: A Letter to Three Wives. (1949) 5.30 Ma Bar. 5.50 Countdown. (R)

Channel Five 6.00 Milkshake! 9.15 The Wright Stuff. 10.45 Trisha Goddard. (R) 11.45 House Doctor. (R) 12.10 House Doctor. (R) 12.40 Five News. 12.45 Emergency Bikers. (R) 1.45 Neighbours. 2.15 Home and Away. 2.50 Rough Guide to Short Breaks. (R) 3.05 Film: Cries in the Dark. (2006) Thriller, starring Eva LaRue Callahan. 5.00 Five News; Weather. 5.30 Neighbours. (R) 6.00 Home and Away (R) 6.25 Live from Studio Five. 7.00 Five News at 7. 7.30 Highland Emergency; Five News Update. 8.00 Emergency Bikers; Five News at 9. 9.00 NCIS. (R) 10.00 Law & Order: Criminal Intent. 11.00 Law & Order. (R) 11.55 Poker: The World Open VI. 12.55 SuperCasino. 3.55 House Doctor. (R) 4.20 Emergency Bikers. (R) 5.10 Michaela's Wild Challenge. (R)

Thursday

BBC1 6.00 Breakfast. 9.15 Rewind the 60s. 10.00 Homes Under the Hammer; BBC News; Weather. 11.00 Cowboy Trap. 11.45 To Buy or Not to Buy; BBC News; Weather. 12.15 Bargain Hunt. 1.00 BBC News; Weather. 1.30 Regional News; Weather. 1.45 Doctors. 2.15 The Indian Doctor. 3.00 BBC News; Weather; Regional News. 3.05 CBBC. 5.15 Weakest Link. (R) 6.00 BBC News; Weather. 6.30 Regional News Programmes; Weather. 7.00 The One Show. 7.30 EastEnders; BBC News; Regional News. 8.00 Watchdog. 9.00 Have I Got News for You. 9.30 Reggie Perrin. 10.00 BBC News. 10.25 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 Question Time. 11.35 This Week; Holiday Weatherview. 12.30 Sign Zone: Tax the Fat: Panorama. (R) 1.00 Remembrance Week. (R) 1.45 Countryfile. (R) 2.40 Antiques Roadshow (R) 3.40 Restoration Roadshow (R) 4.10 BBC News.

BBC2 6.00 CBeebies. 7.00 CBBC. 8.30 CBeebies. 11.30 Animal Park: Wild in Africa. (R) 12.00 Daily Politics. 12.30 GMT with George Alagiah. 1.00 Dive South. (R) 1.45 Car Booty. (R) 2.15 Ben Fogle's Escape in Time. (R) 3.00 Murder, She Wrote. (R) 3.45 Flog It! (R) 4.30 Pointless. 5.15 The Hairy Bikers' Cook Off. 6.00 Eggheads. 6.30 Strictly Come Dancing – It Takes Two. 7.00 The Culture Show. 8.00 Nigella Kitchen. 8.30 Autumnwatch 2010. 9.30 Autumnwatch Unsprung. 10.00 Never Mind the Buzzcocks. 10.30 Newsnight; Weather. 11.20 The Culture Show. (R) 12.20 The Apprentice: You're Fired! 1.05 BBC News. 4.00 BBC Learning Zone. (R)

ITV1 6.00 Daybreak. 8.30 Lorraine. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. 10.30 This Morning. 12.30 Loose Women. 1.30 ITV News; Weather. 1.55 Regional News; Weather. 2.00 Dinner Date. 3.00 Dickinson's Real Deal. 3.50 Regional Weather. 4.00 Midsomer Murders. (R) 5.00 The Alan Titchmarsh Show. 6.00 Regional News; Weather. 6.30 ITV News; Weather. 7.00 Emmerdale. 8.00 Coronation Street. 8.30 I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here! 10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather. 10.30 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 City Hunt Revealed. 11.35 The Late Debate. 12.05 Grimefighters. (R) 12.30 The Zone; ITV News Headlines. 2.00 Surface. (R) 3.15 The Jeremy Kyle Show (R) 4.10 ITV Nightscreen. 5.30 ITV Morning News.

Channel 4 6.15 Sell Mall. (R) 6.20 The Treacle People. (R) 6.30 Planet Cook. (R) 6.50 Yo Gabba Gabba. (R) 7.15 Freshly Squeezed. 7.40 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.10 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.40 Frasier. (R) 9.10 According to Jim. (R) 9.40 Cook Yourself Thin. (R) 10.10 One Tree Hill. (R) 11.05 Smallville. 12.00 Channel 4 News Summary. 12.05 A Place in the Sun: Home or Away (R) 1.05 Film: Geronimo. (1962) Fact-based Western, starring Chuck Connors. 2.55 Wogan's Perfect Recall. 3.25 Countdown. 4.10 Deal or No Deal. 5.00 Come Dine with Me. 5.30 Celebrity Coach Trip. 6.00 The Simpsons. (R) 6.30 Hollyoaks. 7.00 Channel 4 News. 7.55 4thought.tv. 8.00 Beeny's Restoration Nightmare. 9.00 The Secret Millionaire. 10.00 True Blood. 11.05 8 Out of 10 Cats. (R) 11.50 Reaper. 12.45 King of the Hill. 1.05 Coppers. (R) 2.30 Film: A Dirty Shame. (2004) Comedy, starring Tracey Ullman. 4.05 Unreported World. (R) 4.30 Dispatches: Riding Europe's Gravy Train. (R) 5.25 Countdown. (R)

Channel Five 6.00 Milkshake! 9.15 The Wright Stuff. 10.45 Trisha Goddard. (R) 11.45 House Doctor. (R) 12.10 House Doctor. (R) 12.40 Five News. 12.45 Emergency Bikers. (R) 1.45 Neighbours. 2.15 Home and Away. 2.50 Rough Guide to Journeys. (R) 3.05 Mickey and the Seal. (R) 3.10 Film: Jane Doe: Vanishing Act. (2005) Mystery, starring Lea Thompson. 5.00 Five News; Weather. 5.30 Neighbours. (R) 6.00 Home and Away (R) 6.25 Live from Studio Five. 7.00 Five News at 7. 7.30 Jaguar Adventure with Nigel Marven; (R) Five News Update. 8.00 The Virgin Queen's Fatal Affair: Revealed; Five News at 9. 9.00 Film: In the Line of Fire. (1993) Wolfgang Petersen's thriller, starring Clint Eastwood. 11.35 The World of Stupid Criminals. 12.05 SuperCasino. 3.55 House Doctor (R) 4.20 Emergency Bikers. (R) 5.10 Michaela's Wild Challenge. (R)

Friday

BBC1 6.00 Breakfast. 9.15 Rewind the 60s. 10.00 Homes Under the Hammer; BBC News; Weather. 11.00 Cowboy Trap. (R) 11.45 To Buy or Not to Buy; BBC News; Weather. 12.15 Bargain Hunt. 1.00 BBC News; Weather. 1.30 Regional News; Weather. 1.45 Doctors. 2.15 The Indian Doctor. 3.00 BBC News; Weather; Regional News. 3.05 CBBC. 5.15 Weakest Link. (R) 6.00 BBC News; Weather. 6.30 Regional News Programmes; Weather. 7.00 Children in Need 2010. 10.00 BBC News. 10.25 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 Children in Need 2010; Weatherview. 2.05 BBC News.

BBC2 6.00 CBeebies. 7.00 CBBC. 8.30 CBeebies. 11.30 Animal Park: Wild in Africa. (R) 12.00 Daily Politics. 12.30 GMT with George Alagiah. 1.00 Dive South. (R) 1.45 Car Booty. (R) 2.15 Ben Fogle's Escape in Time. (R) 3.00 Murder, She Wrote. (R) 3.45 Flog It! (R) 4.30 Pointless. 5.15 The Hairy Bikers' Cook Off. 6.00 Eggheads. 6.30 Strictly Come Dancing – It Takes Two. 7.00 Live International Rugby Union: Wales v Fiji (Kick-off 7.30pm). 9.30 Harry & Paul. 10.00 Mastermind Children in Need Special. 10.35 Newsnight. 11.05 The Review Show; Weather. 11.50 The National Lottery Draws. 12.00 Later with Jools Holland. 1.00 Film: The Spiral Staircase. (1946) Period thriller, starring Dorothy McGuire. 2.25 Close.

ITV1 6.00 Daybreak. 8.30 Lorraine. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 10.30 This Morning. 12.30 Loose Women. 1.30 ITV News; Weather. 1.55 Regional News; Weather. 2.00 Dinner Date. 3.00 Dickinson's Real Deal. 3.50 Regional Weather. 4.00 Midsomer Murders. (R) 5.00 The Alan Titchmarsh Show. 6.00 Regional News; Weather. 6.30 ITV News; Weather. 7.00 Emmerdale. 7.30 Coronation Street. 8.00 Cheetah Kingdom. 8.30 Coronation Street. 9.00 I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here! 10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather. 10.30 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 Film: Tango & Cash. (1989) Action adventure, with Sylvester Stallone and Kurt Russell. 12.30 The Zone; ITV News Headlines. 2.30 Film: The Three Musketeers. (1973) Swashbuckling adventure, starring Michael York. 4.30 ITV Nightscreen. 5.30 ITV Morning News.

Channel 4 6.10 Sell Mall. (R) 6.15 The Treacle People. (R) 6.30 Planet Cook. (R) 6.50 Yo Gabba Gabba. (R) 7.15 Freshly Squeezed. 7.40 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.10 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.40 Frasier. (R) 9.10 According to Jim. (R) 9.40 Cook Yourself Thin. (R) 10.10 One Tree Hill. (R) 11.05 Smallville. 12.00 Channel 4 News Summary. 12.05 Atlantis (R) 12.10 River Cottage Bites. 12.20 Film: The Bridge on the River Kwai. (1957) Oscar-winning Second World War drama, starring Alec Guinness. 3.25 Countdown. 4.10 Deal or No Deal. 5.00 Come Dine with Me. 5.30 Celebrity Coach Trip. 6.00 The Simpsons. (R) 6.30 Hollyoaks. 7.00 Channel 4 News. 7.25 4thought.tv. 7.30 Unreported World. 8.00 Come Dine with Me. 9.00 The Event. 10.00 Film: Good Luck Chuck. (2007) Premiere. Comedy, starring Dane Cook. 12.00 Music on 4: Mercury Prize Sessions. 12.15 Music on 4 The Album Chart Show: The Script. (R) 12.50 Music on 4: On Track. (R) 1.05 Film: The Serpent. (2006) Premiere. Thriller, starring Yvan Attal. 3.05 This Week's 4Music Top 20. 4.55 Brothers & Sisters. (R) 5.00 Countdown. (R)

Channel Five 6.00 Milkshake! 9.15 The Wright Stuff. 10.45 Trisha Goddard. (R) 11.45 House Doctor. (R) 12.10 House Doctor. (R) 12.40 Five News. 12.45 Emergency Bikers. (R) 1.45 Neighbours. 2.15 Home and Away. 2.50 Rough Guide to Bang for Your Buck. (R) 3.05 Donald Duck – Winter Storage. 3.10 Film: Taking a Chance on Love. (2009) Romantic comedy, with Michael O'Keefe and Bibi Graham. 5.00 Five News; Weather. 5.30 Neighbours. (R) 6.00 Home and Away. (R) 6.25 Live from Studio Five. 7.00 Five News at 7. 7.30 Fifth Gear; Five News Update. 8.00 White Van Man; Five News at 9. 9.00 The Mentalist. 10.00 Law & Order: Special Victims Unit. 10.55 CSI: Miami. (R) 11.50 Cops in Crisis. (R) 12.10 SuperCasino. 4.05 Motorsport Mundial. 4.30 Street Market Chefs. (R) 4.55 Rough Guide to Beaches. (R) 5.10 Michaela's Wild Challenge. (R)

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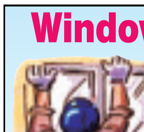
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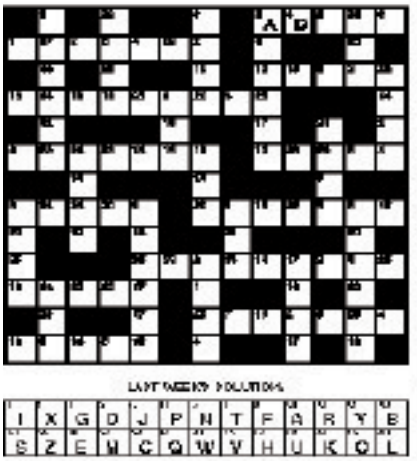

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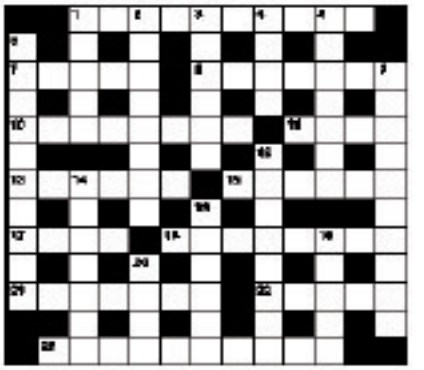

Sudoku

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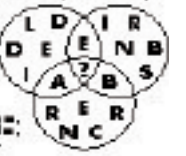
					1	8		
	3		6					7
		8				1		5
		3		8		9		
9		5				2		
2							9	
		9	3					
	1		7	2	9			

Circlegram



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Jarrod (Eric Balfour) and Elaine (Scottie Thompson) make a run for it

Fight for survival in alien onslaught

CINEMA

AFTER a late night party, a group of friends in Los Angeles are awakened in the dead of the night by an eerie light beaming through the window.

Like moths to a flame, the light source is drawing people outside before they suddenly vanish into thin air. That's the set up for apocalyptic new science fiction thriller Skyline, which opens at cinemas tomorrow (Fri), a special effects bonanza blending elements of Cloverfield, The Mist, War of the Worlds, Independence Day and Close Encounters.

The friends soon find themselves in a fight for survival as the world unravels around them in a terrifying alien onslaught.

Eric Balfour (from 24) stars alongside David Zayas (Dexter), with Donald Faison (Scrubs), Brittany Daniel (Sweet Valley High) and Neil Hopkins (Lost). Skyline is directed by brothers Colin Strause and Greg Strause, written by Liam O'Donnell and Joshua Cordes .

In the film strange lights descend on the city of Los Angeles

DISNEY SPECIAL

Still magic after all these years

Disney On Ice 100 Years of Magic, NIA

It is 108 years since Walt Disney was born and next week it will be 72 years since Mickey Mouse made his movie debut... so I can only assume that the 100 Years of Magic is part of a decade-long celebration of the studio's movie magic. Whatever the theme, the latest Disney ice spectacular does live up to the hyperbole - it is a visual treat full of colourful costumed characters and featuring thrilling skating.

Mickey and Minnie Mouse, with some help from the accident-prone Goofy, introduce a cavalcade of favourite Disney songs and moments. It begins in eye-catching style with the Genie from Aladdin duplicating himself into a fast skating chorus line of 20 blue genies. Then a Finding Nemo segment brings back some of the surreal fish costumes, including a menacingly toothy Bruce the Shark, that delighted Disney ice show regulars last year.

The castle set came into its own for a Beauty and the Beast excerpt which became a tribute to the Disney princesses as Belle and her Prince were joined on the ice by Cinderella and Prince Charming, Princess Jasmine and Aladdin, Ariel and Prince Eric, Pocahontas and John Smith, and finally Snow White and her Prince for a series of superbly danced duets.

A big cheer greeted the arrival of Woody, Jessie and Buzz Lightyear, joined by the toy soldiers of Toy Story before the first half ended in dazzling style with a tribute to a favourite Disney theme parks institution It's A Small World.

The anarchic Stitch sadly made an all-too-brief appearance after the interval but then the audience were treated to a tribute to old school classic Pinocchio, probably the most magical portion of the show when Jiminy Cricket croons When You Wish Upon A Star as the fairy descends from her star to turn the puppet into an 'almost real' boy. After being led astray Pinocchio made amends by rescuing his father from the belly of the giant whale Monstro.

The whale was good but the dragon was better in the fast-paced potted version of Mulan, in which snow fell onto the rink as Mulan's Chinese troops battled the Huns. The Incredibles showed their super powers before the most popular part of the show, The Lion King with Hankuma Matata and the gorgeously costumed Simba and Nala dancing to Can You Feel The Love Tonight?

You could certainly feel the love for the whole Disney experience as the huge cast returned for a big firework finale. Disney On Ice continues to celebrate the magic at the NIA to Sunday, November 14.

LEON BURAKOWSKI

Mickey and Minnie Mouse introduced a cavalcade of favourite Disney moments

CD REVIEWS

by Leon Burakowski

Seasons Of My Soul: Rumer

What a very special voice. Rumer (seen right) has been compared to Karen Carpenter and Laura Nyro and her soft, yet sturdy, tones deserve to be mentioned in such legendary company.

Slow, the third and finest song on this debut album, is the perfect showcase. It is gorgeous and will be a huge hit. This is a warm album that feels as though it has been written from experience rather than by committee. It is an engaging set of songs from the 31-year-old singer/songwriter (real name Sarah Joyce, her stage name is a tribute to children's author Rumer Godden).

Whilst none quite match the wonderful Slow, which featured on an EP which introduced this singer who comes from Pakistan by way of the New Forest, they deserve time to work their way under the skin – particularly the laid-back dreamy Come To Me High, the spine-tingling On My Way Home and the Norah Jones-ish Aretha.

Rumer is to appear in concert at Birmingham's Glee Club on December 13. Given the release of this album, her appearances with Jools Holland and on Elton John's Electric Prom... it's likely to be the hottest ticket in town this festive season.

The Wanted: The Wanted

Watch out JLS this five-piece (Jay, Nathan, Tom, Siva and Max) are impressive new kids on the block. The Wanted's debut album opens with a cracking pop song, All Time Low, which bounces off the album and into your brain, where it will stay.

Heart Vacancy is more of a standard ballad with its harmonies and boys together chorus and High and Low is almost choral. However, it remains apparent that these lads are a million miles away from the 'stand-up-for-the-key-change' school of dewy-eyed balladry.

The Wanted live up to their promise to bring sexy back to boy bandism with come on song Let's Get Ugly which cheekily uses the famous refrain from Ennio Morricone's western movie theme The Good The Bad and The Ugly. Say It On The Radio is a rocker whilst Golden is an interestingly strange almost-indie rock song. The emphasis is back on the dancefloor for Weakness before the double salvo of potential hits, Behind Bars and Made. A lot of people are going to want The Wanted.

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Barratt sales adviser Tanya Rhodes at Hodkins Place

Second chance for first timers

FIRST-TIME buyers in Wednesbury have been handed a second chance to move into a new home with a minimal deposit after a further funding release for the HomeBuy Direct scheme.

Thousands of people across the country have taken advantage of the Government-backed scheme, which enables buyers to move in for 70 per cent of the price. The original HomeBuy Direct is coming to an end. But 19 homes at Barratt West Midlands' Hodkins Place development on Leabrook Road have now become eligible for the scheme thanks to a new release of Government funds called Kickstart, designed to boost the local housing market.

It means that buyers at Hodkins Place could move into a two-bedroom apartment priced at £92,450 for an initial outlay of just £64,715 and the deposit could be as low as £3,236.

"This news should interest anyone looking to buy a home in Wednesbury who doesn't have a big deposit," said Graydon Worthing, Sales Director for Barratt West Midlands. "Everyone knows that public spending is being squeezed at the moment, so it's great news that local people will still be able to get on the property ladder with the help of Government money.

"I'd advise anyone who is interested to come and talk to us as soon as possible. There will be a lot of demand for a limited number of homes and buyers will be served on a first come first served basis.

"HomeBuy Direct can dramatically reduce the initial cost of house purchase and for people who have been priced out of the market for years this is an outstanding opportunity to own their own home."

The scheme gives buyers the opportunity to move in for only 70 per cent of the price, with the remaining 30 per cent covered by a loan from Barratt and the Government's Homes and Communities Agency. Because a smaller mortgage is required, monthly repayments should be more affordable.

HomeBuy Direct is open to a wide range of people who don't currently own their own home. Eligible households will be earning less than £60,000.

Buyers can also benefit from Barratt West Midlands' new five year warranty on fixtures and fittings in their new home at the time of purchase.

The items which Barratt will cover at no extra cost to the buyer will include appliances such as washing machines and refrigerators, kitchen units, wardrobes, the central heating system, fires, doors, windows, drainage, the hot and cold plumbing system and even the driveway.

The five-year guarantee of fixtures and fittings in place at the time of purchase is in addition to the existing ten-year warranty on the structure of new homes and remains valid even if the home is sold on.

For more information about the homes available at Hodkins Place contact the sales office on 0121 505 1857 from 10am to 5pm. Or call the sales hotline on 0844 811 9933 or visit the www.barratthomes.co.uk/hodkinsplace website.

Take a view on family homes in Perry Common

HOUSEBUILDER Barratt West Midlands is inviting prospective customers to take a look around the brand new 'viewhome' at its popular Dovedale Park development on Jackdaw Road in Perry Common.

Situated in a quiet residential area, Dovedale Park offers a selection of family homes just a few miles from Birmingham city centre.

In order to show purchasers exactly what is on offer, Barratt has opened the doors to a three-bedroom, three-storey Norbury style home which offers a spacious and flexible layout for couples and young families.

On the ground floor there is a living and dining room with separate kitchen. Two double bedrooms and main family bathroom sit on the first floor whilst the master bedroom occupies the entire second floor and benefits from en-suite and dressing area.

Trevor Dixon, Sales Manager for Barratt West Midlands said: "The Norbury is the ideal starter home for couples and young families. It offers a flexible layout which can accommodate the ever changing needs of modern family life all with the price tag of only £185,950.

"This new viewhome adds to the existing collection of show pieces at Dovedale Park and demonstrates the quality purchasers can expect if they decide to live here.

Selection

"We currently have a selection of Norbury style houses available to buy at the development, so it is great that we are now able to open this new viewhome which will allow purchasers to visualise their own furniture and belongings in place."

Dovedale Park also offers a selection of two-bedroom apartments priced from £117,500 and two- and three-bedroom houses priced from £155,950.

For more information, contact the sales office on 0121 384 7391 open daily from 10am to 5pm. Or call the sales hotline on 0844 811 9933 or go online and log on to the www.barratthomes.co.uk/dovedalepark website.

The Norbury home at Dovedale Park in Birmingham

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£139,950
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Atlas Properties are pleased to introduce this semi-detached property, benefiting from three bedrooms, lounge with patio doors and fitted kitchen tiled to ceiling with entrance to rear garden, upstairs family bathroom with shower, central heating and double glazing, off road parking, garden to rear fully paved. This property also comes with all fixtures and fittings and carpets plus all furniture can be included within the sale, fully alarmed.
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NEW

HOLCROFT STREET, TIPTON

Situated in an established residential location close to Burnt Tree Island this well presented traditional mid terrace offers good accommodation with the benefit of three bedrooms, two reception rooms, kitchen, bathroom, garden, freehold.

Offers based on: £95,000

Viewing: Oldbury Office

NEW

BROOK ROAD, OLDBURY

Full internal inspection is highly recommended for this well presented deceptively spacious semi detached house contained on a popular residential development close to the Wolverhampton Road, Oldbury. The property offers good accommodation with the benefit of double glazing and gas fired central heating and briefly comprises entrance hall, front lounge, conservatory, fitted kitchen, rear vestible, utility, downstairs toilet, three bedrooms, bathroom, off street parking to front, pleasant rear garden, freehold.

Offers based on: £124,950

Viewing: Oldbury Office

NEW

HOLLAND AVENUE, OLDBURY

Full internal inspection is highly recommended for this exceptionally well presented traditional style semi detached residence contained in a well established residential neighbourhood close to Bristnall Hall Road, it benefits from gas fired central heating and double glazing and briefly comprises entrance hall, fitted kitchen with toilet off and larder, guest shower room, through lounge, three bedrooms, well appointed bathroom, off street parking to front, garden to rear, freehold.

Offers based on: £139,500

Viewing: Oldbury Office

NEW

DUDLEY ROAD EAST, OLDBURY

In need of general improvement this traditional style Edwardian semi offers good accommodation with the benefit of double glazing and gas fired central heating, and briefly comprises two reception rooms, kitchen, bathroom, three bedrooms, garden, freehold.

Offers around £89,500

Viewing: Oldbury Office

REDUCED

GREEN STREET, OLDBURY

Full internal inspection is highly recommended for this well presented semi detached residence contained in a convenient locality close to Oldbury town centre. The well planned accommodation which benefits from gas fired central heating and double glazing briefly comprises storm porch, entrance hall, front lounge, open plan dining kitchen, conservatory with guest shower room off, three bedrooms, bathroom, off street parking to front, well looked after garden, freehold.

Offers based on £119,950

Viewing: Oldbury Office

REDUCED

BALMORAL WAY, ROWLEY REGIS

Situated on a popular and convenient residential location off Throne Road, this well presented extended modern detached residence offers good family accommodation with the benefit of gas fired central heating and double glazing, internal inspection is highly recommended, the accommodation includes entrance hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen, utility room, fitted cloakroom, three good sized bedrooms, bathroom, fore and rear gardens, garage, freehold.

Offers around £140,000

Viewing: Oldbury Office

ADDENBROOK ROAD

A pleasantly situated freehold end town house located in an established residential neighbourhood close to comprehensive day to day amenities, offering gas centrally heated and double glazed accommodation to include hall, cloaks, living room, kitchen/breakfast room, three bedrooms, bathroom, outside wc, gardens, ample off street parking and wide entrance, but being in need of general upgrading.

Offers based on £92,950

Viewing: Bearwood office

LIGHTWOODS HILL

Superbly presented, most sympathetically improved and delightfully situated freehold traditional double three storey semi detached residence offering excellent family accommodation which is gas centrally heated, double glazed and fully alarmed, occupying a prime location fronting Lightwoods Hill in this established private residential neighbourhood, and offering five double bedrooms, tiled bathroom with shower, hall, lounge, separate sitting room, well fitted dining kitchen, laundry, morning room, downstairs shower room and wc, mature and secluded south facing garden with extensive terracing, off street parking for at least two cars, being just a few hundred yards from both Sandwell shopping centre, The Knight Road Filled and Warley Woods, thus having easy access to Birmingham City Centre and requiring full internal inspection to be appreciated.

Offers based on: £377,000

Viewing: Bearwood Office

BOWLING GREEN DRIVE, BEARWOOD

A deceptively spacious, attractively presented and well fitted modern semi detached residence located at the head of a quiet, recently established residential close, and offering gas central heating and double glazed accommodation to include three bedrooms, one with ensuite shower room, half tiled house bathroom, well proportioned lounge, excellent fitted dining kitchen, utility room or garage, off street parking, pleasant laid out garden, having the benefit of a good range of day to day amenities within easy reach to include Warley Woods and requiring full internal inspection to be appreciated.

Offers based on £209,950

Viewing: Bearwood Office

LIGHTWOODS ROAD

A deceptively spacious sympathetically improved and well presented traditional freehold villa residence occupying an exceptionally convenient location fronting Lightwoods Road in this established and popular neighbourhood and offering gas centrally heated and double glazed accommodation with a number of original features and to include three bedrooms, fully tiled shower room, hall, lounge, separate dining room, large kitchen, bathroom and pleasant gardens, within easy reach of Lightwoods Park and Bearwood Shopping Centre, enjoying easy access to Birmingham City Centre with inspection highly recommended.

Offers based on £164,950

Viewing Bearwood Office

HARBORNE ROAD, BEARWOOD

Delightfully situated on high ground in this sought after neighbourhood and commanding truly impressive views over the surrounding areas, to both front and rear, a substantial traditional freehold semi detached residence offering excellent family accommodation with a host of original features and to include four double bedrooms, spacious well appointed bathroom with individual shower, reception hall, lounge, separate dining room, large dining kitchen and established gardens, incorporating gas central heating, some double glazing and burglar alarm system, direct facing Warley Woods and being within easy reach of comprehensive day to day facilities to include easy access to Birmingham city centre.

Offers based on: £345,000

Viewing: Bearwood Office

LIGHTWOODS HILL, BEARWOOD

A most beautifully presented and amicably situated substantial freehold semi detached residence occupying one of the most sought after locations locally, directly overlooking Warley Woods and having been the subject of a most sympathetic and extensive improvement programme in recent times with quality fittings throughout, now offering superb family accommodation which is gas centrally heated and mostly double glazed and retaining a good range of original features and to include hall, lounge, separate sitting room, 21ft dining/kitchen, utility area, laundrette, downstairs shower/washroom, conservatory, four double bedrooms, bathroom and laid out mature gardens to include off street parking at the front, having the benefit of comprehensive day to day amenities close at hand to include easy access to Birmingham City Centre and surrounding areas and requiring full internal inspection to be appreciated.

Offers based on: £345,000

Viewing: Bearwood Office

PUBLIC AUCTION

Our next collective auction sale is scheduled for
MONDAY 29th NOVEMBER 2010
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LOT 1: **40 CLARENDON ROAD, SMETHWICK B67 6DA**
Freehold 3 bedroomed centrally heated and double glazed terraced — £75-80,000

LOT 2: **8 BRISBANE ROAD, SMETHWICK B67 7AN**
Freehold double glazed and centrally heated 2 bedroomed villa — £80-85,000

LOT 3: **38 REGINALD ROAD, BEARWOOD B67 5AE**
Freehold 2 bedroomed centrally heated villa needing some modernisation — £85-90,000

LOT 4: **214 DOROTHY ROAD, SMETHWICK B67 6JP**
Freehold end town house with central heating some modernisation — £85-90,000

LOT 5: **214 MONTAGUE ROAD, SMETHWICK B66 4PN**
Freehold 3 bedroomed terraced with central heatin,g needing some improvement — £85-88,000

LOT 6: **17 TEMPLE WAY, TIVIDALE B69 3JP**
Freehold double glazed modern town house needing some improvement — £ circa 105,000

LOT 7: **1 SLATCH HOUSE ROAD, SMETHWICK B67 5QD**
Freehold double glazed and centrally heated 2 bedroomed terraced — £ circa 90,000

LOT 8: **129 KATHERINE ROAD, BEARWOOD B67 5QY**
Freehold 3 bedroomed terraced with central heating, needing some improvement — £ circa 90,000

LOT 9: **277A PORTLAND ROAD, EDGBASTON, B17 8LU**
Freehold modern centrally heated and double glazed 5 bedroomed detached — £ 180,00-190,000

LOT 10: **33 THREE SHIRES OAK ROAD, BEARWOOD B67 5BZ**
Freehold 2 bedroomed centrally heated and double glazed villa, needing some further improvement — £95,000-100

LOT 11: **61 RATHBONE ROAD, BEARWOOD B67 5EJ**
Freehold centrally heated 3 bedroomed villa needing needing some further improvement — £95,000-100,000

LOT 12: **16 CAPETHORN ROAD, SMETHWICK B66 4LZ**
Freehold 2 bedroomed terraced, needing improvement — £60-60,000

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EDGBASTON

PLOT 37 BUTLERS WALK

Delightfully presented double fronted three storey executive new build home occupying an impressive corner position and comprising central receptionhall, downstairs guest wc, attractive dual aspect lounge, spacious fitted kitchen/diner, utility area, four bedrooms, master having en suite shower room/wc, family bathroomwc, landscaped front and rear gardens, rear garage, gas central heating, double glazing and alarm. This property is the corner four bed show home and as such comes with all blinds and flooring as seen and must be viewed internally

£217,995

OLDBURY

FOREST ROAD

Well presented extended traditional style semi detached family residence located on a popular road and comprising enclosed porch, reception hall, two spacious reception rooms, modern style breakfast kitchen, separate utility, ground floor wc, four bedrooms, modern style first floor bathroom with shower, integral garage, private rear garden, driveway, gas central heating and double glazing. Viewing is highly recommended.

£214,950

OLDBURY

BROADWAY CROFT

Substantially extended well presented semi detached residence located a cul-de-sac and comprising reception hall, generous 30 ft through lounge, spacious fitted breakfast kitchen, three double bedrooms, stylish re-fitted first floor bathroom/wc with walk-in shower, additional stylish separate wc, attractive landscaped rear garden, integral garage with garage loft storage and full-width block paved driveway, gas central heating and double glazing. Viewing is highly recommended.

£187,500

OLDBURY

SUNNYBANK ROAD

Well presented traditional style character semi-detached residence located in a popular residential road and comprising enclosed porch, reception hall, downstairs guest wc, dining room, lounge, fitted kitchen, utility room, three bedrooms, modern style first floor bathroom with shower, rear garden, side garage, driveway, gas central heating and double glazing (where specified). Viewing is highly recommended.

£169,950

BEARWOOD/SMETHWICK

GALTON ROAD

Well presented traditional style freehold terraced residence located in this pleasant neighourhood within easy reach of both Lightwoods Park and Warley Woods comprising enclosed porch, entrance hallway, through lounge/dining room, fitted kitchen, utility area, down stairs shower room/wc, three bedrooms, first floor bathroom/wc, front and rear gardens, central heating (where specified), double glazing (where specified). This property benefits from comprehensive day-to-day amenities close at hand easy access to Birmingham City Centre.

£162,500

HALESOWEN

WOODBURY ROAD

Modern style extended link detached residence in a popular road comprising enclosed porch, reception hall, spacious through lounge, extended fitted breakfat kitchen, three bedrooms, first floor bathroom/wc with shower, side garage, rear garen, driveway, double glazing and warm air central heating. No upward chain.

£154,950

WANTED PROPERTY TO SELL

Do you own a property in any of the following areas:

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OLDBURY

GRAFTON ROAD

Spacious traditional style semi detached residence in need of some modernisation located on a popular residential road comprising enclosed porch, reception hall, spacious through lounge, kitchen, three bedrooms, first floor family bathroom/wc with shower, rear garden, driveway to front, gas central heating and double glazing. No upward chain.

£129,950

OLDBURY

HAGLEY ROAD WEST

Superbly presented spacious two-storey duplex apartment conveniently located on the main Hagley Road West, Quinton. First storey comprises feature conservatory, L-shaped reception hall with built-in storage, modern style fitted kitchen, spacious attractive dining area and lounge. Second storey comprises two double bedrooms, modern style re-fitted shower room, separate wc, gas central heating, double glazing, off road parking for two cars and attractive garden having pergolas and split-level deck. Internal viewing is essential.

£116,500

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SMETHWICK

UNKETTS ROAD

Well presented traditional style mid terraced residence comprising entrance hall, lounge, spacious breakfast kitchen, down stairs wc, three bedrooms, first floor bathroom/wc, rear garden, off road parking to front, gas central heating (where specified) and double glazing. Viewing recommended.

£112,500

OLDBURY

FARM ROAD

Well presented traditional style mid terraced residence in popular road comprising enclosed porch, two reception rooms, fitted kitchen, downstairs bathroom/wc with walk-in shower, three double bedrooms and front and rear gardens. The property also benefits from having double glazing and feature gas fuel stove. Internal viewing is highly recommended.

£112,500

HARBORNE

MERRYFIELD GROVE

Well presented furnished/un furnished terraced residence well located within Harborne and comprising entrance hall, spacious L-shaped lounge, feature adjoining conservatory, kitchen, two double bedrooms, first floor bathroom/wc, double glazing, storage heating and gardens to front and rear. Viewing recommended.

£600 PCM

OLDBURY

TITFORD ROAD

Delightfully presented first floor apartment located in the exclusive 'The Wharf' Development built by Bellway Homes comprising central reception hall with built-in storage, spacious lounge, modern fitted kitchen, two double bedrooms, modern bathroom/wc with shower, storage heating, double glazed, security intercom system, allocated parking space and garage. Viewing recommended.

£500 PCM

OLDBURY

ASHWOOD CLOSE

Luxury second floor apartment located in the exclusive 'The Wharf' Development built by Bellway Homes comprising central reception hall with built-in storage, spacious fitted kitchen/lounge area, two good sized bedrooms, modern bathroom/wc wth shower. The property also benefits from having storage heating, double glazing, security alarm and residents parking.

£500 PCM

OLDBURY

TITFORD ROAD

Spacious luxury second floor apartment located near to Wolverhampton Road, Oldbury within the exclusive 'The Wharf Development' built by Bellway Homes. This attractive apartment comprises generous central reception hall, spacious lounge, modern fitted kitchen, two good sized bedrooms, luxury bathroom/wc with shower, storage heating, double glazing, intercom, garage and parking. Viewing is a must.

£490 PCM

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DARLASTON
PINFOLD STREET
- 1 Bedroom Flat
- Bedroom
- Lounge
- Bathroom
- Kitchen
- Sorry NO DHSS

£340 PCM

WEDNESBURY
UPPER HIGH STREET
- One Bedroom Flat
- Kitchen
- Entrance Hall
- Shower Room
- Lounge
- Bedroom

£340 PCM

WEST BROMWICH
BRIARLEY
- 2 Bedroom Flat
- New Fitted Kitchen
- Hall
- Bathroom
- Lounge
- Two Bedrooms

£350 PCM

WEDNESBURY
ELWELL STREET
- One Bedroom Flat
- Bedroom
- Lounge
- Bathroom
- Kitchen
- Communal Grounds

£365 PCM

DUDLEY PORT
DUDLEY PORT
- 2 Bed flat
- Bathroom
- Lounge
- Double Glazed
- Kitchen
- Sorry No DHSS

£395 PCM

DARLASTON
THE AVENUE
- Two Bed Apartment
- Kitchen
- Private Entrance
- Two Bedrooms
- Lounge
- Bathroom

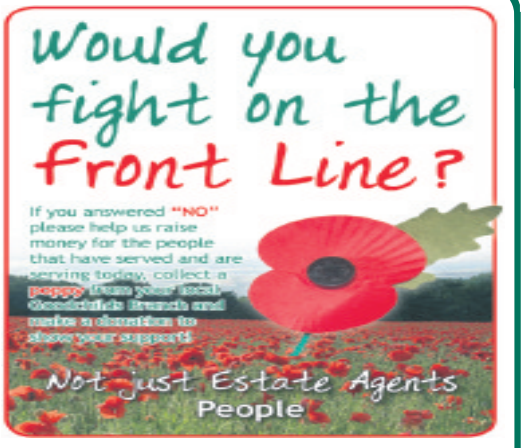
£450 PCM

WEDNESBURY
BLENHEIM DRIVE
- 2 Bedroom Apartment
- Two Bedrooms
- Lounge
- Bathroom
- Kitchen/Diner
- Two Allocated Spaces

£450 PCM

DARLASTON
GORDON STREET
- Two Bed Mid Terrace
- Two Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Bathroom
- Kitchen/Diner
- Front & Rear Garden

£475 PCM



OLDBURY
FARM ROAD
- 3 Bedroom Terrace
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Family Bathroom
- Fully Fitted Kitchen
- Refurbished

£475 PCM

BILSTON
BRADLEY LANE
- 3 Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Fitted Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Family Bathroom

£495 PCM

WEDNESBURY
ROBERTS ROAD
- Three Bedroom Semi Detached
- Kitchen
- Ground Floor Wet Room
- Lounge
- Second Reception

£495 PCM

WEST BROMWICH
JAMES EATON CLOSE
- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Conservatory
- Two Reception Rooms
- Ground Floor Shower Room
- Breakfast Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms

£575 PCM

WEDNESBURY
NOWELL STREET
- Four Bedroom Detached Property
- Newly Fitted Kitchen
- Cloakroom W.C
- Two Reception Rooms
- Family Bathroom

£595 PCM

WEDNESBURY
WOODMAN CLOSE
- Four Bedroom Detached House
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- Two Reception Rooms
- Conservatory
- Fully Fitted Kitchen
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- Front & Rear Gardens

£600 PCM

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- Four bedroom mid-terrace
- Two reception rooms
- Kitchen with dining area
- First floor bathroom
- Fully double glazed central heated

£575 PCM

Sheepwash Lane, Great Bridge

- One bedroom ground floor flat
- Large living area
- Spacious bedroom
- Fitted kitchen
- Modern bathroom
- Eco 7 Heating

£360 PCM

Wallace Road, Bilston

- Three bedroom semi
- One reception room
- Kitchen/Diner
- Downstairs bathroom
- Fully C/H and D/G
- Off road parking

£485 PCM

Caroline Street, West Bromwich

- Two bedroom mid-terrace house
- Two reception rooms
- Fitted kitchen
- Upstairs bathroom
- Rear garden
- Furnished

£500 PCM

Paul Jackson

ESTATE AGENTS, RESIDENTIAL LETTINGS AND CHARTERED SURVEYORS

VIEWPOINT, OAKHAM PARK, TIVIDALE

Superbly appointed modern style detached, situated within this most favoured residential development, in excellent order thorughout, the impressive accommodation offers gas central heating, double glazing, lounge, separate dining room, fitted kitchen, downstairs wc, three very good sized bedrooms, en-suite, family bathroom, garage, pleasant and well tended gardens, attractive block paved driveway. Viewing absolutely essential.

£215,000

ROEBUCK LANE, WEST BROMWICH

Deceptively spacious well presented traditional style extended semi, easy access to local amenities, m5/m6 motorway networks, offering gas central heating, double glazing, through lounge, separate dining room, extended kitchen, three bedrooms, bathroom, gardens,garage,block paving..viewing essential

£184,950

DOGKENNEL LANE, OLDBURY

Well presented traditional style semi, situated within this most favoured residential location, easy access to local amenities, local schools, in good order throughout, offering gas central heating, double glazing, lounge, dining area, fitted kitchen, three bedrooms, bathroom, off road parking.

£169,995

LONSDALE ROAD, SMETHWICK

Impressive modernised terrace, offeirng gas central heating, double glazing, two reception rooms, fitted kitchen, ground floor bathroom three bedrooms, landscaped rear garden, excellent first time purchase, viewing essential.

£109,950

TEMPLE WAY, TIVIDALE

Delightful modern style semi, pleasant residential development, offering gas central heating, double glazing, lounge/dining area, open plan kitchen, two bedrooms, bathroom, rear garden, good off road parking. Excellent first time purchase. Viewing essential.

£105,000

VOWLES ROAD, WEST BROMWICH

Semi detached modern style property, offering gas central heating, double glazing, and accommodation briefly comprising: lounge, kitchen/diner, downstairs WC, three bedrooms, en0-suite shower room, family bathroom, garage, off road parking, garden.

£154,950

ANDERSON ROAD, BEARWOOD

Traditional style terrace, easy access to all local amenities on bearwood high street, offering gas central heating, double glazing, two reception rooms, kitchen, bathroom, two bedrooms, gardens, no upward chain..must be viewed

£119,950

ASHTREE ROAD, TIVIDALE

Traditional style semi, pleasant residential location, offering gas central heating (where specified), double glazing (where sepcified), two reception rooms, kitchen, three bedrooms, bathroom, gardens, garage, driveway. No upward chain. Realistically priced for early sale.

£119,000

TIVERTON DRIVE, WEST BROMWICH

Most charming modern style end terrace, cul-de-sac location, offering gas central double glazing, lounge/dining area, fitted kitchen, two bedrooms, bathroom, pleasant gardens, off road parking, no upward chain. Viewing essential.

£104,950

ABBEY ROAD, SMETHWICK

Most impressive refurbished detached bungalow, offering a wealth of improvemens to include: gas central heating, double glazing, lounge, re-fitted kitchen, two bedrooms, superb double glazed conservatory, re-fitted bathroom, pleasant rear garden, two garages, block paved driveway.

£695 pcm

MIDLAND ROAD, WALSALL

Most spacious traditional style end terrace, walking distance to walsall town centre, offering gas central heating, double glazing, two reception rooms, kitchen, ground floor bathroom, three good sized bedrooms, gardens, viewing essential.

£600 pcm

MANOR ROAD, WEDNESBURY

Traditional style terrace, close to local amenities, offering gas central heating, double glazing, and accommodation briefly comprising: lounge, dining room, kitchen, three bedrooms, gardens, viewing recommended.

£575 pcm

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- D/G where specified

£189,950

AKRILL CLOSE, B70 9SU

- A Terraced Property
- Three Bedrooms
- C/H & D/G, Freehold
- Shower Room & Seperate WC

£125,000

REMEMBRANCE ROAD, WS10 0TE

- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Downstairs Bathroom
- D/G and C/H

£109,950

SHERIDAN STREET, B71 4EE

- A Mid Terraced Property
- Two Reception Rooms
- Three Bedrooms
- Freehold

£121,995

PIERCY STREET, B70 9PH

- An End Terraced Property
- Two Bedrooms
- C/H & D/G
- Freehold

£124,950

WARNER ROAD, WS10 0ET

- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- C/H & D/G
- Garage

£129,500

KINITHS WAY, B71 4BP

- A Three Bedroomed Semi Detached
- Two Reception Room
- Rear Garage, Freehold
- C/H & D/G

£152,950

ANDREW ROAD, B71 3QG

- A Detached Property
- Three Bedroom, Side Garage
- D/G and Alamed
- C/H where specified and Freehold

£129,950

HAMPSHIRE ROAD, B71 2PS

- A Semi Detached House
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Two Bedrooms
- Freehold

£91,950

CHARLEMONT CRESCENT, B71 3DA

- An Extended Semi Detached House
- Three Bedrooms
- C/H and D/G
- Conservatory

£224,950

TOMPSTONE ROAD, B71 3SN

- A Mid Terraced Property
- Two Bedrooms
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- Credit/Reference Checks Required

£475 PCM £475 DEPOSIT

CHARLEMONT ROAD, B71 3HX

- A Mid Teraced Property
- Three Bedrooms
- No DSS or Pets
- Credit/Reference Checks Required

£550 PCM £550 DEPOSIT

BEEBEE ROAD, WS10 9RX

- A Semi Detached House
- Three Bedrooms
- No DSS & No Pets
- Credit/Reference Checks Required

£550PCM £550 DEPOSIT

ROWLEY VIEW, B70 8QR

- A Mid Terraced Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Six Months Tenancy
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£550 PCM £550 DEPOSIT

132 WALSALL ROAD, STONE CROSS, WEST BROMWICH B71 3HP

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DUDLEY

ELIZABETH GROVE

Offers in the region of £269,950

A exceptionally well presented detached property having views overlooking the surrounding districts. Storm porch, hall, cloakroom off, lounge, breakfast kitchen, dining room, conservatory, utility. Staircase to three bedrooms (one with en-suite off) bathroom, central heating and double glazing, off road parking, garage, front and landscaped rear gardens

OLDBURY

POOL LANE

Offers in the region of £189,950

A detached bungalow having side substantial off road parking to side offering ideal caravan storage, storm porch entrance into L shaped reception hall, kitchen utility area off, lounge conservatory off, three bedrooms, bathroom with jacuzzi bath and seperate shower cubicle, gas fired central heating, uPVC double glazing, front and rear gardens

OLDBURY

HILL TOP ROAD

Offers in the region of £178,995

A modern semi-detached three-storey family home offering deceptively spacious accommodation porch entrance reception hall cloaks and stores off kitchen lounge with feature fireplace stairs from hall totwo bedrooms with fitted wardrobes bathroom stairs to second floor landing master bedroom walk in wardrobe shower room central heating double glazing garage

SMETHWICK

HOLLY STREET

Offers In The Region of £177,995

An imposing end terraced residence offering well planned and spacious family accommodation with off road parking and garage. Vestibule to reception hall with cellar off, two reception rooms, breakfast room, kitchen and bathroom. Staircase to four bedrooms, bathroom, two central heating systems and double glazed windows where specified, veranda, rear yard and garden

OLDBURY

FARM AVENUE

Offers in the region of £164,950

A well presented traditional semi detached within the catchment areas of Moat Farm Junior School and Oldbury College of Sport, offering tastefully modern decorated extended family accommodation, porch entrance, reception hall, lounge, dining kitchen, archway to conservatory. Stairs to three bedrooms, shower room, central heating and double glazing, off road parking, rear garden

SMETHWICK

MARSHALL STREET

Offers in the region of £150,000

A deceptively spacious end terraced property providing unique accommodation and providing off road parking. Porch to vestibule, reception hall, two reception rooms, breakfast room, kitchen, W.C. and laundry room. Staircase to three bedrooms, bathroom, central heating and double glazing where specified, carport, sun room, workshop rear garden

OLDBURY

JARVIS CRESCENT

Offers in the region of £139,950

An improved and extended semi detached property location having large themed landscaped and well maintained garden to the rear, storm porch entrance, hall, lounge, dining room, inner hallway having bathroom, seperate w.c, stores and conservatory leading off, kitchen. Staircase to three bedrooms, central heating and double glazing, off road parking and rear garden

OLDBURY

TITFORD CLOSE

Offers in the region of £135,950

A extended end modern town house situated within a private close off Titford Road. Porch entrance into reception area, extended kitchen, lounge and extended dining area leading off. Staircase to first floor landing, three bedrooms, bathroom and shower over bath, double glazed and central heated where specified, detached garage, off road parking, front and rear gardens

TIVIDALE

ADDINGTON WAY

Offers in the region of £135,500

A modern semi detached property having off road parking on communal driveway situated within a quiet estate location comprising hall entrance w.c. off, lounge feature fireplace, dining kitchen with fitted appliances. Staircase to three bedrooms, bathroom shower over bath, central heating and double glazing, off road parking, front and rear gardens

OLDBURY

MAYPOLE ROAD

Offers in the region of £129,950

A modernised end townhouse situated at the head of cul-de-sac location within the catchment area of Perryfields High School, hall entrance, lounge, dining kitchen, conservatory, lobby, downstairs bathroom. Staircase from reception hall to first floor landing, off which lead three bedrooms, shower room, central heating, double glazing where specified, off road parking to front, rear garden

OLDBURY

PUMPHOUSE WAY

Offers in the region of £129,950

A recently partly refurbished end town house situated in a cul-de-sac location newly granted 10 year NHBC guarantee. Hall entrance with cloaks and kitchen, lounge. Staircase from reception hall to first floor landing off which lead three bedrooms, bathroom shower over bath, double glazing and central heating, front and rear gardens, allocated parking.

TIVIDALE

ASHTREE ROAD

Offers in the region of £124,950

A well presented deceptively spacious end town house having substantial side garden and off road parking offering large storm porch entrance into reception hall with stores and W.C. off, lounge with feature fireplace,double doors to dining room, conservatory, kitchen. Staircase to three bedrooms (two with fitted wardrobes) shower room, central heating where specified, double glazing, and gardens

OLDBURY

TITFORD ROAD

Offers in the region of £119,950

An exceptionally well maintained, and improved Edwardian semi detached property, situated in a convenient location, hardwood door to front room, inner hallway dining room, galley kitchen, conservatory, lobby, shower room. Staircase from dining room to two bedrooms, bathroom, central heating and double glazing, front and landscaped rear garden

OLDBURY

MALLARD DRIVE

Offers in the region of £105,000

A mid town house situated on a popular sought after development offering ideal accommodation for first purchase. Front entrance with canopy over, reception hall, lounge, kitchen. Staircase to two bedrooms (master bedroom with fitted wardrobe) bathroom shower over bath, central heating, double glazing, front and rear gardens, allocated car parking space

OLDBURY

NEWBURY LANE

Offers in execss of £100,000

A semi detached property requiring some improvement and modernisation. Storm porch entrance into reception hall, lounge with feature fireplace, dining kitchen. Staircase to first floor landing off which lead three bedrooms, bathroom, double glazing and central heating where specified, front and rear gardens, rear vehicular gated parking off Wallace Road

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EDGBASTON

Shenstone Road
An opportunity to acquire an extremely spacious, delightfully presented, modern, 4 bedroomed family home which truly requires an internal inspection , having gas radiator heating, double glazing and briefly comprising:- Entrance hall (with downstairs w.c off), delightful lounge, super re-fitted dining kitchen (having integral oven/hob), archway to utility, 4 good sized bedrooms (master with shower room en-suite), attractive house bathroom, garage and pleasant garden.
Offers Around: £210,000

OLDBURY

Pottery Road
An attractively presented, thoughtfully improved, spacious, 3 bedroomed semi detached property conveniently situated, truly requiring an internal inspection, having double glazing, gas radiator heating and briefly comprising:- Porch, entrance hall, delightful spacious through lounge/dining area, attractive conservatory, fitted kitchen (with oven/hob), utility area, 3 bedrooms, bathroom, drive providing off road parking and rear garden.
Offers Around: £149,950

SMETHWICK

Woodbourne Road
3 bedroomed traditional style semi detached property pleasantly situated within this popular neighbourhood, requiring modernization and updating but offering potential, having majority double glazing and briefly comprising:- Entrance hall, through lounge/dining area, rear lean to verandah, 3 bedrooms, narrow garage/useful store at the side (with w.c off) and good sized rear garden.
Offers around £149,950

SMETHWICK

Bartleet Road
A deceptively spacious, well proportioned 3 bedroomed semi detached property in pleasant cul-de-sac position, having double glazing, gas radiator heating and briefly comprising:- Entrance vestibule (with downstairs w.c off), spacious lounge, kitchen, 3 bedrooms, bathroom and rear garden. No upward chain.
Offers Around: £124,950

OLDBURY

Titford Road
An extremely spacious, modern, well presented 2 bedroomed second floor apartment which truly requires internal inspection to be fully appreciated, having double glazing. Approached via a communal entrance and briefly comprising:- Entrance hall, delightful spacious lounge/dining area, fitted kitchen (with oven/hob), 2 double bedrooms, attractive bathroom, communal gardens and garage in separate block.
Offers Around: £109,950

OLDBURY

Mallard Drive
A deceptive well proportioned, double bedroomed ground floor flat set upon this popular development, requiring internal inspection approached via a communal entrance and briefly comprising:- Entrance hall, lounge (with kitchenette off), double bedroom (having fitted wardrobe), shower room, communal garden and allocated parking space. No upward chain.
Offers Around: £68,950

SMETHWICK

Francis Road
A chance to acquire a deceptively spacious, considerably improved and well presented 3 bedroomed semi detached property, which truly requires an internal inspection to be fully appreciated, having gas radiator heating, double glazing and briefly comprising: Delightful spacious lounge, superb refitted dining kitchen (with integral fridge and dishwasher), small utility, rear vestibule (having downstairs WC off), 3 bedrooms (bed 1 and 2 with fitted furniture), refitted shower room, drive providing ample off road parking, garage and pleasant garden. BEARWOOD OFFIE 0121 434 4345
Offers around £149,995

SMETHWICK

St Michaels Court, Crocketts Lane
Well proportioned, spacious, three bedroomed semi-detached property conveniently situated having gas radiator heating and requiring internal inspection. Briefly comprising: Entrance vestibule, attractive spacious, lounge, archway to dining area, kitchen, three bedrooms, bathroom, rear garden and separate garage at the front. BEARWOOD OFFICE 0121 434 4345
Offers Around £134,995

HARBORNE

Sheepmoor Close
Occupying a pleasant position within this popular, convenient neighbourhood, providing delightful outlook towards park, this deceptively spacious, well presented ground floor flat truly requires internal inspection to be fully appreciated, having double glazing, warm air heating and briefly comprising Communal entrance, hall, spacious through lounge, attractive kitchen, double bedroom, re-fitted bathroom, communal gardens and garage in separate block. BEARWOOD OFFICE 0121 434 4345
Offers around £108,000

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WEST BROMWICH
Overton Place

Refurbished 2 bedroom flat near sandwell hospital, reception room, ch and dg, communal car park.
£450

WEST BROMWICH
ST.Vincent Crescent

3 bedroom sem-detached property, reception room, dining area, ch & dg. Front and rear gardens.
£525

West Bromwich
Cordeley Street

3 bedroom mid-terrace property, 2 reception rooms, newly fitted kitchen and bathroom. central heated and double glazed.
offers £99,000

WEST BROMWICH
Trinity Sreet

Lovely 2 bedroom property, lounge, dining space, ch & dg, first floor bathroom. Available fully furnished
£550

WEST BROMWICH
Burlington Rd

3 bed spacious terrace property, 2 reception rooms, ch & dg, rear garden, near high st. available unfurnished
£525

TIPTON
KENILWORTH CLOSE

Three bedroom link detached property, large reception room, CH and DG, garage and drive.
£575 PCM

West Bromwich
Cambridge Street

Large 3 bedroom property, 2 reception rooms, ch and dg, bathroom with shower cubicle, rear enclosed garden.
£500

Tipton
Ferguson Drive

Modern 2 bedroom apartment, spacious reception room, double glazed windows, allocated parking, fitted kitchen and bathroom.
£525

TIPTON
Spring Meadow

Lovely 1 bedroom flat, open plan kitchen, storage heaters, double glazed window. allocated parking
£550

TIPTON
victoria road

2 bedroom bunglow with reception room, lounge. shower room, ch and dg off rod parking. unfurnished
£475

WEST BROMWICH
Ebeneezer Street

2/3 bedroom property situated in the hilltop area, reception room with conservatory. downstairs w.c and 1st floor bathroom. ch and dg. off road parking.
500

West Bromwich
Hope Street

large 3 bedroom mid-terrace property, 2 reception rooms, good size kitchen with dining area, c/h & dg. available fully furnished.
£550

WEST BROMWICH
Rayford Drive

3 bedroom semi detached property, through lounge, new kitchen, 1st floor bathroom, ch and dg. private drive and garage. must be seen
550

WEST BROMWICH
Julia Gardens

Modern 3 bedroom property in charlemont area of west Bromwich, lounge. kitchen. central heated and double glazed. garage
£550

WEST BROMWICH
Hall Green Road

Very Spacious 3 bedroom maisonnete, large reception room, central heated and double glazed, fitted kitchen and bathroom
£550

WEST BROMWICH
CLIFFORD ROAD

3 bedroom house comprising of: 2 reception rooms, fitted bathroom, fitted kitchen, front and rear gardens, central heating and double glazing. Unfurnished
£475 pcm

WEST BROMWICH
Princes Gate

Modern 2 bedroom ground floor apartment, spacious lounge, good size bedrooms, storage heating, dg windows, allocated parking.
£525

WEST BROMWICH
Vale Street

4 bed detatched property, lounge, dinig area, utility room. seperate w.c. fitted kitchen and bathroom. ch and dg. furnished. off road parking.
£600

West Bromwich
York Crescent

Modern 3 bed property, master bed with en-suite, central heated and double glazed. spacious lounge. first floor bathroom. drive and garage. must be viewed.
£625

West Bromwich
Winchester Road

large 3 bed semi-detached property in Hilltop area, 2 reception rooms. newly refurbished. central heated. first floor bathroom. new carpets. unfurnished
£550

WEST BROMWICH
Legge Street

3 bedroom spacious property, 2 reception rooms and a dining area, ch & dg, available unfurnished.
525

WEST BROMWICH
Emily street

well looked after 2 bed property, 2 large reception rooms, ch & dg. fitted kitchen and bathroom.
£495

Tipton
St.Helens Avenue

Modern 3 bedroom property, central heated and double glazed. first floor bathroom. drive and garage.
£550

West Bromwich
Hollyheadge Road

spacious 3 bedroom semi-detached property, reception room, dining room, fitted kitchen. ch & dg. first floor bathroom. private drive and garage.
£550

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Tel: (0121) 532 2700 Fax: (0121) 532 2669

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NEW

TIPTON
DIANE CLOSE
★ Extended three bedroom detached on corner plot
★ Lounge/dining room
★ Sitting room and study/bedroom four
★ Extended kitchen
★ Double glazing and gas fired central heating (where specified)
★ Block paved driveway for several vehicles and garage
★ Side and rear gardens
£167,500

NEW DEVELOPMENT

NEW

TIPTON
PLOTS 1 & 2 MYRTLE TERRACE
★ Three bedroom detached houses
★ Lounge/diner
★ Kitchen with appliances
★ En suite to master bedroom
★ Family bathroom
★ Double glazing and gas fired central heating (where specified)
★ Front and rear gardens
★ Fully fitted alarm system
Prices around £159,995

NEW

TIPTON
ROBERT ROAD
★ Semi detached property on corner plot
★ Three bedrooms and two reception rooms
★ Off road parking
★ Central heating and double glazing (where specified)
★ Garage/workshop
★ Gardens to front, rear and side
£109,995

NEW

TIPTON
ADDENBROOK WAY
★ Modern 4 bedroom detached
★ Lounge, dining room, kitchen with utility area
★ Downstairs WC, en suite to master bedroom
★ Family bathroom
★ Double glazing and gas fired central heating (where specified)
★ Garage and driveway
★ Front and rear gardens
£199,995

NEW

TIPTON
PORTFIELD DRIVE
★ Modern three bedroom semi detached
★ Lounge and dining room
★ Kitchen and conservatory
★ Double glazing and gas fired central heating (where specified)
★ Off road parking for several vehicles and garage
★ Side and rear gardens
£139,995

NEW

TIPTON
CHATWINS WHARF
★ Two bedroom end terrace bungalow
★ Warden controlled for over 60s only
★ Lounge and kitchen
★ Bathroom
★ Double glazing and gas fired central heating (where specified)
★ Small rear garden and communal gardens
★ Allocated parking
£89,995

NEW

TIPTON
CHERRY ROAD
★ Three bedroom semi detached
★ Lounge
★ Breakfast kitchen
★ Double glazing and gas fired central heating (where specified)
★ Off road parking
★ Rear garden
★ No upward chain
£79,995

REDUCED

TIPTON
MIDDLE MEADOW
★ Three bedroom modern detached
★ Lounge and dining room
★ Ground floor WC and first floor family bathroom
★ Fitted kitchen
★ En suite to master bedroom
★ Double glazing and gas fired central heatint (where specified)
★ Detached garage and driveway
★ Rear garden
Now offers in region of £150,000

REDUCED

TIPTON
EDWARD FISHER DRIVE
★ A two bedroom semi detached
★ Lounge & dining kitchen
★ Front & rear garden
★ Double glazing & central heating (where specified)
★ Allocated parking
WAS £107,500 NOW £105,000

REDUCED

TIPTON
BROAD CROFT
★ Two bedroom mid terrace
★ Fitted kitchen
★ Upstairs family bathroom
★ Central heating and double glazing (where specified)
★ Tandem off road parking for two cars
★ Rear garden
WAS £99,995 NOW £94,995

TIPTON
STANDBRIDGE WAY
★ Three bedroom semi detached
★ Re-fitted kitchen and bathroom
★ En suite to master bedroom
★ Lounge diner
★ Off road parking and garage
★ Rear garden
★ Central heating double glazing (where specified)
£143,500

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REDUCED

TIPTON
LEVESON DRIVE
★ Modern mid terrace property
★ Two bedrooms
★ Kitchen diner
★ Central heating and double glazing (where specified)
★ Off road parking to the front
★ Rear garden
WAS £102,500 NOW £99,995

TIPTON
VICTORIA ROAD
★ Three bedroom detached
★ Through lounge
★ Kitchen and conservatory
★ Upstairs family bathroom
★ Central heating and double glazing (where specified)
★ Rear garden
£179,950

TIPTON
ANNE GROVE
★ Three bedroom semi detached
★ Through lounge/dining room
★ Fitted kitchen
★ Conservatory
★ Double glazing and gas fired central heating (where specified)
★ Garage and driveway
★ Rear garden
£139,950

TIPTON
SANNDERS CRESCENT
★ Three bedroom two and a half storey town house
★ Lounge diner, fitted kitchen
★ Ground floor WC, en suite to master bedroom
★ Family bathroom
★ Central heating and double glazing (where specified)
★ Garage, parking and rear garden
£134,995

TIPTON
BARTLETT CLOSE
★ Three bedroom semi detached
★ Lounge and dining room
★ Kitchen
★ Double glazing and gas fired central heating (where specified)
★ Garage and concrete print driveway
★ Rear garden
£128,995

TIPTON
BANKFIELD ROAD
★ Three bedroom semi detached
★ Lounge
★ Dining kitchen
★ Majority double glazing
★ Gas fired central heating (where specified)
★ Front and rear gardens
£127,000

TIPTON
MYRTLE TERRACE
★ Two bedroom semi detached bungalow
★ Lounge
★ Kitchen
★ Bathroom
★ Garage/Gymnasium
★ Driveway
★ Large rear garden
£124,950

TIPTON
NEWCOMEN DRIVE
★ Three bedroom mid terrace
★ Lounge, dining kitchen
★ Ground floor WC
★ Double glazing and gas fired central heating (where specified)
★ Off road parking
★ Rear garden
★ Viewing via Tipton 0121-520 2255
£119,995

WEST BROMWICH
ACORN CLOSE
★ Three bedroom end terrace
★ Lounge and dining area
★ Refitted kitchen
★ Upstairs family bathroom
★ Gardens to front, side and rear
★ Shared off road parking
★ Central heating and double glazing (where specified)
£114,950

TIPTON
TUDOR STREET
★ Three bedroom semi detached
★ Lounge and kitchen
★ Ground floor shower room
★ Double glazing and gas fired central heating (where specified) ★ Garage
★ Rear garden
£104,995

TIPTON
EDWARD ROAD
★ Three bedroom semi detached on corner plot
★ Lounge and dining room
★ Kitchen
★ Double glazing and gas fired central heating (where specified)
★ Off road parking
★ Front, rear and side gardens
£99,995

TIPTON
WOODARD ROAD
★ Three bedroom and terrace
★ Lounge, kitchen
★ Downstairs shower room, first floor bathroom
★ Double glazing and gas fired central heating (where specified)
★ Off road parking
★ Rear garden
£99,995

TIPTON
SOLLY GROVE
★ Two bedroom semi detached
★ Lounge
★ Kitchen
★ Double glazing and gas fired central heating (where specified)
★ Driveway
★ Further land to the rear
£99,995

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NEW

BILSTON
WRENBURY DRIVE
A recently built four bedroom link detached property in a cul de sac location. Having the remainder of the builders NHBC guarantee , the property is offered for sale with no upward chain
£164,950

NEW

WEDNESBURY
THE FURLONG
Skitts are delighted to offer for sale this modern style and town house. Having three bedrooms and conveniently situated on a corner plot the property is fully double glazed and centrally heated and has the added bonus of a garage and ample parking.
£129,950

NEW

WEST BROMWICH
LINCOLN ROAD
This well presented, traditional style semi detached property is offered for sale with no upward chain. With three good size bedrooms the property is considered ideal for first time buyers.
£119,950

NEW

WEDNESBURY
HOBS ROAD
An opportunity for a purchaser in a position to proceed to acquire this traditional-style semi detached property available with no upward chain. With three bedrooms and two reception rooms the property affords off road parking for several vehicles.
£119,950

NEW

Wednesbury
DARBY ROAD
Situated in a popular road, this three bedroom semi is competitively priced and offers well appointed accommodation which benefits from central heating and double glazing throughout and briefly comprises of : Reception Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, ground floor Bathroom, three Bedrooms, attractive generous rear Garden and off road parking to the fore.
£118,995

NEW

Darlaston
BROADWATERS ROAD
A very well presented TWO BEDROOMED SEMI-DETACHED residence on a larger than average plot, offering potential for further extension subject to necessary planning consents. The property is considered ideal for a first time buyer and having easy access to the centres of Darlaston, Willenhall and Wednesbury, with the Motorway network nearby for commuting to Birmingham. The property is well served by local amenities including schools for children of all ages.
£94,950

NEW

Darlaston
HEATHFIELD LANE WEST
Having the benefit of central heating and double glazing, this traditional semi would be ideal for first time buyers looking for a home in which to grow. Within the catchment area of popular local schools and close to Darlaston town centre and transport links to Wolverhampton, Walsall and Birmingham this attractively priced property briefly comprises of : Reception hall, two reception rooms, kitchen, guest wc, three bedrooms and first floor shower room, generous rear garden and driveway providing off road parking to the fore
£89,950

REDUCED

BILSTON
WRENBURY DRIVE
A splendidly appointed modern four bedroom detached residence offering spacious family living accommodation which can only be appreciated by a full internal inspection. With two reception rooms, two bathrooms and a fitted kitchen the property is considered ideal for a family puchaser.
£169,950 For Quick Sale

REDUCED

DARLASTON
45 BELL STREET
This modern-style four bedroom detached home, conveniently situated close to Darlaston town centre, local amenities and schools this spacious house is considered ideal for the family purchaser.
£149,950

REDUCED

WEST BROMWICH
CALDWELL STREET
Situated in the Stone Cross area of West Bromwich, convenient to local shops, schools and transport links, this three bedroom semi detached house is offered for sale with no upward chain. The property benefits from central heating and double glazing but offers scope for further improvement. Having the addition of a useful conservatory and the bonus of secure off road parking to the rear.
£104,950

REDUCED

WEDNESBURY
10 LILAC GROVE
Situated within the popular Golf Links development, this exceptional two bedroom semi detached house offers accommodation just ready to move in to! Great for first time buyers or a purchaser looking to downsize, this house has it all!
£119,950

REDUCED

WEDNESBURY
FRANCHISE STREET
- ★ Three bedroom semi-detached house
- ★ Ideal first-time purchase
- ★ Fitted kitchen
- ★ First floor bathroom and downstairs guest w/c
- ★ Enclosed rear garden
- ★ Off road parking to the fore
- ★ No chain
- ★ Viewings via Wednesbury office

£99,950

REDUCED

DARLASTON
ADDENBROOKE STREET
This property is light and airy, has a lovely rear garden and is considered ideal for first time buyers. Having central heating, some attractive original features and offered for sale with no upward chain. Early internal viewing is considered essential. In brief the accommodation comprises: two reception rooms, fitted kitchen, guest w/c, two double bedrooms, first floor bathroom, small Foregarden and long rear garden.
£69,500

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REDUCED

Darlaston
CASH JOYNSON AVENUE
Situated in Darlaston, convenient for schools, bus routes and shopping facilities, this three bedroom end terrace property offers great value for first time buyers or investment purposes. The property benefits from a condensing central heating system and briefly comprises of : Reception Hall, Lounge, Dining kitchen, ground floor Bathroom, Garden and Garage facility.
£79,950

WEDNESBURY
CHURCH HILL
- ★ Traditional extended semi detached house
- ★ Superior location
- ★ Three bedrooms
- ★ Extended kitchen with storage and w/c off
- ★ Lovely established rear garden
- ★ Off road parking the fore
- ★ Viewings via Wednesbury office

£144,950

WEST BROMWICH
BUSTLEHOLME LANE
- ★ Superior detached house
- ★ Extensively renovated and refurbished
- ★ Four bedrooms
- ★ Extended lounge and seperate dining room
- ★ Fully fitted kitchen
- ★ Family bathroom and en-suite to master
- ★ Enclosed south facing rear garden
- ★ Viewing via Wednesbury office

£249,995

WEDNESBURY
106 HAWKSWOOD DRIVE
Situated on a corner plot within the popular Hawkswood Grange development, this modern-style three bedroom semi detached family home offers spacious accommodation in a great location. With the addition of a conservatory the proeprty is fully centrally heated and double glazed.
£139,995 £2,000 Cash-Back this weekend

WEST BROMWICH
17 LEACROFT GROVE
Enjoying a private aspect to the rear garden and boasting generous bedrooms, this property is offered for sale with no upward chain and is considered ideal for the family buyer. The accommodation benefits from double glazing and economy 7 heating and briefly comprises of: Porch, spacious reception hallway, lounge, kitchen, three bedrooms, first floor bathroom, integral garage, off road parking to the fore and private, pretty rear garden.
£134,950

WEST BROMWICH
STANHURST WAY
A well presented, much improved three bedroom semi detached house enjoying a leafy outlook on this popular development. The property benefits from double glazing and central heating throughout. Super family home with lovely large rear garden, off road parking to the fore and a garage.
£134,950

WEST BROMWICH
86 RAYFORD DRIVE
- ★ Semi-detached house
- ★ Three bedrooms
- ★ Lounge and dining kitchen
- ★ First floor bathroom
- ★ Semi-detached garage to rear
- ★ Garden and parking to the front
- ★ Landscaped rear garden
- ★ Viewings via Wednesbury office

£129,950

WEDNESBURY
HOLLY ROAD
This traditional style two bedroom semi detached property is situated in a popular cul de sac off Woden Road North and is offered for sale with no upward chain. Thought ideal for young professionals , being ideally located for access to the motorway network at Junction 9 of M6. The accommodation benefits from majority central heating and double glazing.
£124,000

West Bromwich
GRIFFITHS ROAD
Having been thoroughly refurbished by the current owners, the property benefits from central heating, double glazing, alarm system and offers well presented accommodation which briefly comprises; Porch, reception hall, lounge, re-fitted dining kitchen, utility room, two bedrooms and first floor bathroom, attractive rear garden with brick built storage and off road parking to the fore.
£117,950

WEST BROMWICH
24 JAMES WATT STREET
Skitts are pleased to offer for sale this mid terraced property. With four bedrooms and two reception rooms the property is considered ideal for a family purchaser or for investment purposes. Close to local amenities this large mid terraced property briefly comprises of; porch, reception hall, two reception rooms, kitchen, four bedrooms and a large rear garden.
£109,950

REDUCED

WEDNESBURY
BRUNSWICK PARK ROAD
This two bedroom, traditional style mid terraced home is offered for sale with no upward chain. In a very popular location the property is considered ideal for first time buyers.
£97,500

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Tipton
Bridge Road, NEW

Semi Detached having gas central heating, some upvc double glazing and offering no upward chain. Porch, reception hall, lounge, kitchen, downstairs bathroom, 3 bedrooms, fore / rear gardens.
OFFERS AROUND: £68,950
Viewing: 0121 522 3733

Tipton
Hall Street, NEW

Spacious, Much Improved Semi Detached having upvc double glazing and gas central heating. Viewing highly recommended whilst briefly comprising, reception hall, lounge, dining area, fitted kitchen, sitting room, 3 bedrooms, bathroom, enclosed driveway, double length garage with utility / w.c. fore / rear gardens.
OFFERS AROUND: £139,950
Viewing: 0121 522 3733

Oldbury
Warwick Gardens, NEW

Modern Semi Detached having gas central heating, upvc double glazing and well presented accommodation. Porch, reception area, open plan lounge / dining room, fitted kitchen, 3 bedrooms, bathroom, driveway, garage, fore / rear gardens.
OFFERS AROUND: £104,950
Viewing: 0121 522 3733

Bilston
Meldon Drive, NEW

Much Improved Middle Terrace having upvc double glazing and gas central heating. Enclosed porch, reception hall, through lounge / dining room, re-fitted kitchen (built in appliances), 3 bedrooms, bathroom with shower, large driveway & rear garden.
OFFERS AROUND: £112,500
Viewing: 0121 522 3733

Tipton
Standbridge Way, NEW

Modern Detached having upvc double glazing and gas central heating. Reception hall, guest cloakroom, lounge, fitted kitchen, 3 bedrooms, en suite shower room, family bathroom, driveway, garage and rear garden.
OFFERS AROUND: £177,500
Viewing: 0121 522 3733

Tipton
Sefton Grove, Woodford Hollow,

Modern Semi Detached having upvc double glazing, gas central heating, sought after location, well presented accommodation & briefly comprising, lounge, fitted breakfast kitchen with built in oven/hob, 3 bedrooms, bathroom with shower, driveway, (side potential subject to planning) & gardens.
OFFERS AROUND: £126,995
Viewing: 0121 522 3733

West Bromwich
Cape Street, NEW

Good Size Semi Detached having upvc double glazing, gas central heating & offering no upward chain. porch, reception hall, lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, rear lobby, 3 bedrooms, bathroom, block paved driveway, garage & rear garden.
OFFERS AROUND: £139,950
Viewing: 0121 522 3733

Tipton
Davis Avenue, NEW

Much Improved Traditional Semi Detached having upvc double glazing, gas central heating and canal to rear. Internal viewing is strongly recommended whilst briefly comprising, enclosed porch, reception hall, lounge, L'Shape fitted kitchen / dining room, 3 bedrooms, bathroom with shower, block paved driveway and rear garden.
OFFERS AROUND: £124,950
Viewing: 0121 522 3733

Tipton
Oakley Avenue, NEW

Semi Detached having gas central heating & upvc double glazing. Offering no upward chain and briefly comprising, reception hall, lounge, kitchen / dining room, 3 bedrooms, bathroom, driveway, side double length garage, fore / rear gardens.
OFFERS AROUND: £134,950
Viewing: 0121 522 3733

Tipton
Brock Road, NEW

Spacious Double Fronted Semi Detached having upvc double glazing, gas central heating and offering no upward chain. Reception hall, through lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen with built in oven/hob, 3 bedrooms, bathroom with shower, separate toilet, large driveway to front and large rear garden.
OFFERS AROUND: £117,950
Viewing: 0121 522 3733

Tipton
Crownmeadow Drive, Queensgate,

Improved End Terrace having upvc double glazing & gas central heating. Internal viewing recommended whilst briefly comprising, reception hall, lounge, conservatory, fitted kitchen, 2 bedrooms, bathroom, side driveway & rear garden.
OFFERS AROUND: £107,500
Viewing: 0121 522 3733

Tipton
Sanders Crescent,

Modern 2.5 Storey Middle Town House having upvc double glazing and gas central heating. Spacious family accommodation briefly comprises, reception hall, guest cloakroom, lounge, fitted kitchen, 3 bedrooms, en-suite shower room, family bathroom, garage & gardens.
OFFERS AROUND: £138,500
Viewing: 0121 522 3733

Tipton
Jays Avenue, NEW

First Floor Flat having upvc double glazing, gas central heating & offering no upward chain. In need of some repair / attention and briefly comprising, lounge, kitchen, 2 bedrooms, bathroom & garden.
OFFERS AROUND: £49,950
Viewing: 0121 522 3733

Tipton
Lewis Street, NEW

Middle Terrace having upvc double glazing, gas central heating & offering no upward chain. Spacious accommodation briefly comprises, porch, lounge, inner hallway, kitchen, rear porch, 2 bedrooms, bathroom, separate toilet, rear garden with secure parking.
OFFERS AROUND: £67,500
Viewing: 0121 522 3733

Tipton
Vernon Avenue, NEW

Purpose Built First floor Flat having upvc double glazing, gas central heating and loft conversion. Offering spacious well maintained accommodation which briefly comprises, reception hall, landing, lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, 2 bedrooms, studyroom (possible bedroom 3), en suite, family bathroom, 2/3 car driveway, fore / rear gardens.
OFFERS AROUND: £84,950
Viewing: 0121 522 3733

Tipton
Scott Street, REDUCED

Modern 3 Storey Town House having upvc double glazing and gas central heating. Offering no upward chain & briefly comprising, reception hall, lounge / dining room, fitted breakfast kitchen, utility room, 3 bedrooms, 2 en suite shower rooms, study room / possible bedroom 4, family bathroom, fore / rear gardens and garage in separate block.
OFFERS AROUND: £144,950
Viewing: 0121 522 3733

Tipton
Newcomen Drive,

Modern Middle Terrace having UPVc double glazing, gas central heating, superbly presented accommodation & briefly comprising, reception hall, guest cloakroom, lounge, fitted breakfast kitchen with built in oven/hob, 3 bedrooms, bathroom with shower, 2 allocated parking spaces, fore and rear gardens.
OFFERS AROUND: £119,995
Viewing: 0121 522 3733

Tipton
Sanders Crescent, NEW

Modern 2.5 Storey Detached having upvc double glazing, gas central heating and good size well presented family accommodation. Reception hall, guest cloakroom, lounge, fitted breakfast kitchen (built in oven/hob), conservatory (underfloor heating), 3 double bedrooms, en suite shower room, family bathroom, 2 car driveway, garage & rear garden.
OFFERS AROUND: £184,950
Viewing: 0121 522 3733

Tipton
Sanders Crescent, REDUCED

Modern Detached having upvc double glazing, gas central heating & offering no upward chain. Spacious family accommodation briefly comprises, storm porch, reception hall, guest cloakroom, lounge, conservatory, dining room, fitted kitchen, 4 bedrooms, en suite shower room, family bathroom, driveway, integral garage, fore and rear gardens.
OFFERS AROUND: £189,995
Viewing: 0121 522 3733

Tipton
Brock Road,

Semi Detached having upvc double glazing and gas central heating. Reception hall, lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, 3 bedrooms, bathroom, fore / rear gardens.
OFFERS AROUND: £104,950
Viewing: 0121 522 3733

Tipton
Arthur Road,

Semi Detached having upvc double glazing and gas central heating. Spacious family accommodation briefly comprises, porch, reception hall, lounge, sitting room, fitted kitchen, outhouses, 3 bedrooms, bathroom with shower, driveway to front & rear garden.
OFFERS AROUND: £115,000
Viewing: 0121 522 3733

Tipton
Puddlers Drive, Hamlet Place,

Modern Detached having upvc double glazing, gas central heating and occupying an excellent corner plot. Good size family accommodation briefly comprises, reception hall, guest cloakroom, lounge, large kitchen / dining room, utility room, 4 bedrooms, en suite shower room, family bathroom, driveway, garage and rear garden.
OFFERS AROUND: £219,950
Viewing: 0121 522 3733

Tividale
Lower City Road,

Extended Traditional Semi Detached having upvc double glazing, gas central heating and extension to rear. Spacious family accommodation briefly comprises, porch, reception hall, lounge, sitting room, fitted kitchen, wet-room, 3 bedrooms, bathroom, driveway, side garage & good size rear garden.
OFFERS AROUND: £179,995
Viewing: 0121 522 3733

Tipton
St Helens Avenue, Bridg REDUCED

Modern Detached occupying an excellent corner plot on a sought after development. Having upvc double glazing, gas central heating and briefly comprising, reception hall, guest cloakroom, lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, 3 bedrooms, en suite shower room, driveway, garage, fore, side & rear gardens.
OFFERS AROUND: £130,000
Viewing: 0121 522 3733

Tipton
Glebefields Road,

Immaculate extended semi detached residence in a sought after location which benefits from UPVc double glazing & Gas Central Heating and briefly comprising: Porch, Reception Hall, Dining Area, Lounge with feature fire surround, Conservatory, Extended Fitted Breakfast Kitchen, 3 Bedrooms, Re fitted Bathroom. Block Paved Driveway and Enclosed Rear Garden. Viewing Highly Recommended.
OFFERS AROUND: £134,950
Viewing: 0121 522 3733

Tipton
Churchill Walk,

Semi Detached having gas central heating, upvc double glazing and spacious family accommodation. Porch, reception hall, lounge, dining area / fitted kitchen, conservatory, lobby, guest cloakroom, utility room, 3 bedrooms, bathroom with shower, driveway and rear garden.
OFFERS AROUND: £84,950
Viewing: 0121 522 3733

Tipton
Thunderbolt Way, REDUCED

Modern 3 Storey End Town House having upvc double glazing, gas central heating & well presented spacious family accommodation. Storm porch, reception hall, guest cloakroom, lounge, fitted breakfast kitchen, 3 bedrooms, en suite shower room, family bathroom, driveway, integral garage & rear garden.
OFFERS AROUND: £134,950
Viewing: 0121 522 3733

Tipton
Foxyards Road,

Detached Bungalow situated on a most sought after development and occupying an imposing corner position. Having upvc double glazing, gas central heating, no upward chain & briefly comprising, porch, reception hall, lounge, fitted kitchen, inner hallway, 2 bedrooms, new bathroom suite, driveway, garage, additional secure parking to side, fore, side / rear gardens.
OFFERS AROUND: £129,995
Viewing: 0121 522 3733

Tipton
Wilday Close, Standeridge Park,

Modern Detached having upvc double glazing, gas central heating and cul de sac location. Reception hall, guest cloakroom, lounge, large conservatory, fitted kitchen, 3 bedrooms, en suite shower room, family bathroom, driveway, garage, fore / rear gardens.
OFFERS AROUND: £169,950
Viewing: 0121 522 3733

Tipton
Great Meadow, Crystal Gardens,

Modern Semi Detached having upvc double glazing, gas central heating, well presented accommodation & briefly comprising, reception hall, lounge, dining room, guest cloakroom, conservatory, fitted kitchen with built in oven/hob, 3 bedrooms, en suite shower room, family bathroom, integral garage & gardens.
OFFERS AROUND: £162,000
Viewing: 0121 522 3733

Tipton
Hudson Road,

Semi Detached occupying an exceptional large plot offering potential for extensions (subject to planning). Having upvc double glazing, gas central heating, reception hall, through lounge / dining room, fitted kitchen, outhouses, 3 bedrooms, bathroom, driveway, fore garden, large gardens to side / rear.
OFFERS AROUND: £129,950
Viewing: 0121 522 3733

Tipton
Solly Grove, Queensgate,

Modern Semi Detached having upvc double glazing, electric heating & cul de sac location. Reception hall, lounge, fitted breakfast kitchen with built in oven/hob, 2 bedrooms, bathroom with shower, driveway to front & rear garden.
OFFERS AROUND: £102,995
Viewing: 0121 522 3733

Tipton
Manor Road,

Middle Terrrace having upvc double glazing (most windows), gas central heating and improved accommodation. Reception hall, lounge, fitted kitchen, conservatory, downstairs bathroom, 3 bedrooms, fore / rear gardens.
OFFERS AROUND: £114,950
Viewing: 0121 522 3733

Tipton
Gordon Drive,

Semi detached residence having UPVc double glazing, gas central heating, no upward chain, cul de sac location and briefly comprises: Enclosed Porch, Reception Hall, Lounge, Kitchen Diner, 3 Bedrooms, Re fitted Bathroom, Side Garage and Front & Rear Gardens.
OFFERS AROUND: £119,950
Viewing: 0121 522 3733

Tipton
Jevons Drive, Alexandra REDUCED

Modern 2.5 Storey End Town House offering immaculate / improved internal accommodation for which viewing is highly recommended, Having upvc double glazing, gas central heating, spacious family accommodation & briefly comprising, reception hall, guest cloakroom, lounge, fitted kitchen, 3 double bedrooms, en suite shower room, re-fitted family bathroom, separate garage, fore garden & landscaped attractive rear garden.
OFFERS AROUND: £134,995
Viewing: 0121 522 3733

Tipton
Oak Close, Wednesbury Oak Estate,

Well presented Purpose built Ground Floor Flat having UPVc double glazing, electric storage heating & briefly comprising, lounge with feature fireplace, fitted kitchen, 1 bedroom, bathroom with shower & communal gardens.
OFFERS AROUND: £62,995
Viewing: 0121 522 3733

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or email: westbromwich@pauldubberley.co.uk

Wednesbury
Booth Road, Wednesbu NEW

A Well presented 2 bedroom semi detached home. The property is located in a quiet cul-de-sac and benefits gas central heating and double glazing (Where specified). The accommodation is offered with no upward chain and briefly comprises a reception hall, lounge, fitted kitchen, 2 bedrooms, recently re-fitted bathroom suite, delightful enclosed rear garden and off road parking for upto 2 cars.
Viewing: 0121 505 3533 £86,995

Wednesbury
Ridding Lane, Wednesbury

SOLD IT! Subject to Contract

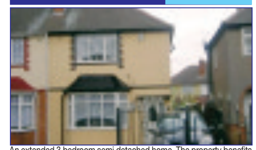
- Period M… Terra… Home with Many Original Features
- G… Central… ng & Double Glazing (where specified)
- S… to Wednesbury Town Centre
- Recepti… Hall & Cellar

OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: 0121 505 3533 £124,995

Wednesbury
Remembrance Road, W REDUCED

A truely amazing extended 3 bedroom mid terrace dwelling. The property benefits gas central heating and double glazing (where specified) and has accommodation to comprise, reception hall, lounge, recently re-fitted 14ft dining kitchen, 3 bedrooms, re-fitted family bathroom suite and enclosed rear garden.
OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: 0121 505 3533 £99,995

Wednesbury
Woden Road East, Wed REDUCED



An extended 3 bedroom semi detached home. The property benefits gas central heating and double glazing. The accommodation comprises; reception hall, 24ft lounge, fitted kitchen, 1st floor and ground floor bathroom suites, enclosed rear garden and off road parking.
OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: 0121 505 3533 £110,000

Wednesbury
Crew Road, Wednesbur NEW

Paul Dubberley & Co are pleased to offer this 3 bedroom semi detached home being double glazed (where specified) and centrally heated. The property, which has no upward chain, has accommodation to comprise a reception hall, lounge, fitted breakfast kitchen, downstairs bathroom/WC, UPVc double glazed conservatory, 3 bedrooms, delightful enclosed rear garden and off road parking.
OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: 0121 505 3533 £114,995

DARLASTON
BERRY AVENUE NEW

Presenting an immaculate 3 bedroom mid terrace home. The property is double glazed and centrally heated (where specified) and has accommodation to comprise a reception hall, lounge, dining kitchen, conservatory, a delightfully recently re-fitted bathroom suite with a separate shower cubicle, 3 bedrooms, enclosed rear garden and a paved driveway.
OFFERS AROUND
Viewing: 0121 505 3533 £102,500

Wednesbury
Phoenix Rise, Wednesbury

Presenting a 1 bedroom 1st floor flat. The apartment would make a fantastic first time purchase and/or investment. Being located in a quiet cul-de-sac location this property is double glazed (where specified) and benefits electric storage heating. The accommodation is approached via a communal entrance and comprises a lounge, kitchen, 1 double bedroom and bathroom
OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: 0121 505 3533 £64,995

Wednesbury
Hamstead Terrace, Wednesbury

Presenting a 2 bedroom semi detached home, located in a quite cul-de-sac location. The property, offers NO UPWARD CHAIN and would make a great first time purchase. The property is centrally heated and double glazed (where specified) and has accommodation to comprise a reception hall, lounge, fitted kitchen, 2 bedrooms, bathroom/wc, enclosed rear garden and
OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: 0121 505 3533 £104,995

Darlaston
Dorsett Road, Darlaston NEW

A period 3 bedroom butt detached home. The property, which has many original features is centrally heated and is located on a corner plot, all with no upward chain! The accommodation briefly comprises a reception hall, with mintern tiled floor, lounge with magnificent feature fireplace, a sizeable 'L' shaped breakfast kitchen, sun room, fitted bathroom suite, delightful low maintenance rear garden and garage to the rear!
OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: 0121 505 3533 £135,000

WEDNESBURY
Wood Green Road NEW

An attractive 3 bed det house. The property, which benefits gas central heating and double glazing (where specified) is spacious throughout and would make a great family home. The accommodation comprises a welcoming reception hall, lounge, sizeable conservatory, dining room, fitted kitchen, utility room, guest wc, family room, 3 bedrooms, master with en-suite enclosed rear garden and gated paved driveway, providing ORP for upto
OFFERS AROUND
Viewing: 0121 505 3533 £199,995

Wednesbury
Gillingham Close, Tiffany Gree

SOLD IT! Subject to Contract

- 3 Bedroo… Deta… ed Home
- G… Central… ated & Double Glazed (where specified)
- Q… e-Sac Location
- Recepti… Hall

OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: 0121 505 3533 £130,000

Walsall
Lord Street, Walsall

Presenting a 2 bedroom end reisdence. The property is centrally heated and double glazed (where specified) and would make a great first time purchase! The property offers a whoping 23ft lounge, a breakfast area, fitted kitchen, 2 bedrooms, 1st floor bathroom suite, enclosed rear garden and off road parking.
OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: 0121 505 3533 £110,000

Wednesbury
Hobs Road, Wednesbur NEW

Presenting a very tidy 3 bedroom semi detached home, located on a corner plot. The property benefits gas central heating and double glazing (where specified) and would make a great family home. the property has no upward chain and accommodation briefly comprises; a reception hall, guest WC, dining room, lounge, fitted kitchen, 3 bedrooms, family bathroom suite, delightful enclosed rear gardens and off road parking for upto 3
OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: 0121 505 3533 £119,950

Wednesbury
Poplar Road, Wednesbury

NO UPWARD CHAIN! A Spacious well maintained semi-detached house in quiet cul-de-sac location ideal for children not overlooked front or rear, no upward chain, 2 double bedrooms, central heating & double glazing, porch, hall, 18ft lounge, fitted kitchen, utility, fitted bathroom, drive, garage & rear garden.
OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: 0121 505 3533 £113,000

Wednesbury
Maple Avenue, Wednesbury

SOLD IT! Subject to Contract

- A Traditio… 3 B… room Semi Detached Home
- Q… Cul-d… Location with No Upward Chain!
- C… ated & Double Glazed (where specified)
- Genero… Corner Lot with Fantastic Secluded Gardens

OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: 0121 505 3533 £144,995

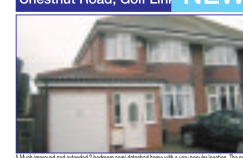
Wednesbury
Eldalade Way, Wednesbury

A traditional 3 bedroom semi detached home. The property, which has no upward chain is located in a cul-de-sac location and is centrally heated and double glazed (where specified). the accommodation comprises a reception hall, lounge, dining kitchen, UPVc conservatory, 3 bedrooms, family bathroom, enclosed rear garden, off road parking and a garage.
OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: 0121 505 3533 £119,995

Wednesbury
Waterside Avenue, Collegefields,

A modern 4 bedroom detached home occupying a cornoer plot located on a popular development. The property benefits gas central heating and double glazing and is offered with no upward chain! The accommodation briefly comprises, reception hall, guest WC, lounge, dining room, breakfast kitchen, utility room, study, 4 bedrooms (master with en-suite), family bathroom, enclosed rear garden, garage and driveway.
OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: 0121 505 3533 £234,995

Wednesbury
Chestnut Road, Golf Link NEW

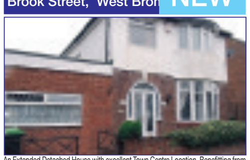


A Much improved and extended 3 bedroom semi detached home with a very popular location. The property benefits gas central heating and double glazing and would make a superb famiy home. The acommodation, which offers no upward chain, briefly comprises a reception hall, drawing room, 20ft lounge, 17ft fitted kitchen, guest WC, 3 bedrooms, fitted bathroom suite, delightful enclosed rear garden, off road parking and a garage.
OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: 0121 505 3533 £169,995

West Bromwich
Gorstie Croft, West Bror NEW

A Delightful Modern Retirement Bungalow, Age restricted for over 60's only. Located within a small private development of similar bungalows, this property benefits from Central Heating, Double Glazing and No Upward Chain. Accomodation Comprises- Porch, Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, 2 Good Size Bedrooms, Shower Room/ WC, Gardens to Front & Rear and Shared Parking Area. Based on a 95% shared ownership.
OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: 0121 525 2111 £99,950

West Bromwich
Brook Street, West Bron NEW



An Extended Detached House with excellent Town Centre Location. Benefitting from Central Heating, Double Glazing and No Upward Chain. Accomodation Comprises, Hall, Extended Lounge, Dining Room, 3rd Reception Room, Kitchen, Ground Floor Shower Room, 3 Bedrooms, Bathroom/ WC, Front Gargen and Large Rear Garden.
OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: 0121 525 2111 £174,950

West Bromwich
Jowetts Lane, West Bromwich NEW

An Excellent Extended End Terraced House. Fully Refurbished by the current owners, this property must be seen to be fully appreciated. Benefitting from Central Heating, Double Glazing, Intruder Alarm and No Upward Chain. Accomodation Comprises, Integral Porch, Hall, Dining Room, Extended Lounge, Extended Refitted Kitchen, 3 Good Size Bedrooms, Refitted Bathroom/ WC and Gardens to Front & Rear.
Viewing 0121 525 2111 OFFERS AROUND: £124,950

West Midlands
Arthur Street, West Brom REDUCED

An Impressive Corner Plot Link Detached House. This Modern Property benefits from Central Heating, Majority Double Glazing and No Upward Chain. Accomodation Comprises, Porch, Lounge, Kitchen/ Diner, 3 Bedrooms, Bathroom/ WC, Gardens to Side and Rear, Driveway Off Road Parking and Garage.
OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: 0121 525 2111 £139,950

West Bromwich
Bromford Lane, West Br REDUCED

In investment opportunity to purchase two terraced properties with land to rear suitable for developement (subject to planning permission). Benefitting form No Upward Chain, Each property comprises, 2 Reception Rooms, Kitchen, Bathroom and 2 Bedrooms. Veiwing is necessary to see the full potential on offer.
OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: 0121 525 2111 £189,950

West Bromwich
St Edmunds Close, Sandwell Valley,

An Excellent Detached Bungalow at the head of a Quiet Cul de sac. Located in a highly sought after residential area this property is very convenient for M5 (Junction 1). Benefiting from Double Glazing, Central Heating, Intruder Alarm and No Upward Chain. Breifly comprising 2 Good Size Bedrooms, Lounge, Conservatory, Refitted Kitchen, Bathroom/ WC, Gardens to Front and Rear and Driveway Off Road Parking Leading To Garage.
OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: 0121 525 2111 £155,000

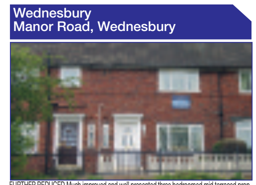
West Bromwich
Dagger Lane, West Bromwich

An Appealing, Detached House, situated in this very popular area near Dartmouth Park and Sandwell Valley Country Park. Centrally heated, double glazed and intruder alarmed. Many character features. Long Hall, 3 Reception Rooms, Fitted Kitchen, 3 Bedrooms, Refitted Bathroom/ WC, Front & Rear Gardens and Double Garage to rear.
OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: 0121 525 2111 £279,950

West Bromwich
Overton Place, West Bromwich

A spacious first floor maisonette located in this popular residential area. Excellent location for local amenities including shops, schools and Sandwell Hospital. Benefitting from central heating, double glazing and No Upward Chain Breifly Comprising Entrance Hall, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, 2 Bedrooms, Bathroom, Separate WC and Garage in separate Garaging Area.
OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: 0121 525 2111 £64,500

Wednesbury
Manor Road, Wednesbury

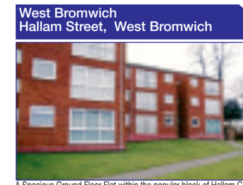


FURTHER REDUCED,Much improved and well presented three bedroomed mid terraced property. Ideal for First time buyers, the property has gas central heating and majority double glazing with accommodation comprising reception hall, lounge, refitted kitchen, conservatory, refitted ground floor shower room, three bedrooms, delightful rear garden with access from rear.
OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: 0121 525 2111 £93,000

West Bromwich
Pennyhill Lane, West Bromwich

. An individually designed two bedroomed detached dormer bungalow, situated in a highly desirable residential area benefiting from double glazing but iln need of some updating and priced accordingly. Briefly comprising reception hall, lounge, dining kitchen, bathroom, two double bedrooms, garage, front & rear garden.
OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: 0121 525 2111 £169,950

West Bromwich
Hallam Street, West Bromwich



A Spacious Ground Floor Flat within the popular block of Hallam Court. Benefitting From Double Glazing, Electric Storage Heaters, Intruder Alarm and No Upward Chain. Accomodation Comprises- Hall, Lounge, 2 Bedrooms, Shower Room/ WC, Refitted Kitchen, Parking Area and Garage.
OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: 0121 525 2111 £79,950

West Bromwich
Oak Road, West Bromwich

A refurbished three bedroom plus loft room end terraced property benefitting from:- central heating, double glazing, refitted kitchen, refitted bathroom (ground floor), three bedrooms and a loft room, reception hall. lounge, dining room, rear lobby and small utility. Viewing Highly Recommended.
OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: 0121 525 2111 £109,950

West Bromwich
Cambridge Street, West Bromwich

Ideal for first time buyers! A Centrally Heated & Double Glazed Mid Terraced House. Excellent Town Centre Location. Accommodation Briefly comprises: 2 Reception Rooms, Kitchen, Ground Floor Bathroom/ WC, 2 Bedrooms and Gardens to Front & Rear.
OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: 0121 525 2111 £96,950

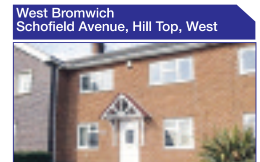
West Bromwich
All Saints Way, West Bromwich

An Attractive Modern Semi Detached with Excellent Location for regular bus services and the hospital. Benefitting From Central Heating, Double Glazing, Intruder Alarmed and No Upward Chain. Accomodation Comprises- Hall, Lounge, Refitted Dining Kitchen, 3 Bedrooms, Refitted Bathroom/ WC, Conservatory, Good Sized Garage to the Rear, lawned front garden and south facing rear garden.
OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: 0121 525 2111 £144,950

West Bromwich
Beverley Road, West Bromwich

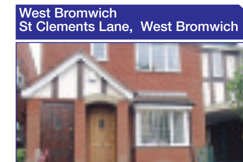
An Attractively Decorated Semi Detached House within a quiet cul de sac location. Benefitting From Central Heating and Intruder Alarm. Accomodation comprises, Hall, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, 2 Bedrooms, Bathroom/ WC, Rear Garden and Driveway Off Road Parking
OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: 0121 525 2111 £109,950

West Bromwich
Schofield Avenue, Hill Top, West



A Recently Refurbished, Double Fronted Mid Terraced House. Benefitting from Central Heating, Double Glazing, Intruder Alarm and No Upward Chain. Accomodation Comprises, Hall, Through Lounge, Dining Room, Refitted Kitchen, 3 Bedrooms, Bathroom with Seperate WC and Gardens to Front & Rear.
OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: 0121 525 2111 £109,950

West Bromwich
St Clements Lane, West Bromwich



An Attractive, Modern Ground Floor Maisonette. Benefitting from Central Heating and Double Glazing. Accomodation Comprises- Entrance Hall, Lounge/ Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Refitted Shower Room/ WC, 2 Bedrooms, Off Road Parking Space to Rear.
OFFERS AROUND:
Viewing: 0121 525 2111 £99,950

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40 Treetops Drive, Willenhall
1 Bed Flat £325.00

45 Pembroke Road, West Bromwich
3 Bed Semi-Detached House.....£500.00

46 Creed Way, West Bromwich B70 9JW
2 Bed 1st Floor Flat, Ch, Dg £525.00

47 Shaftesbury Street, West Bromwich
2 Bed Semi-Detached, Ch £475.00

49 Wedgebury Close, Wednesbury
Modern 1st Floor 2 Bed.....£495.00

5 Oatmill Close, Kings Hill, Wednesbury WS10 9TE
2 Bed Terraced £450.00

54 Carnegie Avenue, Tipton DY4 8SX
Studio Apartment.....£265.00

562 Willenhall Road, Willenhall
4 Bed Semi £580.00

6 Ashley Street, Bilston WV14 7PA
2 Bed Semi Bungalow £575.00

6 Woodlands Centre, Short Heath, Willenhall
Two Bed Flat.....£395.00

63A Broadstone Avenue, Leamore,
Bloxwich WS3 1ER
2 Bed Flat £395.00

7A Keyworth Close, Sanderidge Park, Tipton
Two Bedroom Semi-Detached £445.00

8 Birches Rise, Willenhall WV13 2BD
3 Bed Detached £595.00

9 Apartments, Bloxwich Road South, Willenhall
2 Bed Flat £495.00

9 Emily Street, West Bromwich
2 Bed Mid Terrace, Ch, Dg £475.00

9 Fernwood Croft, Tipton DY4 8LL
2 Bed Ground Floor Flat £450.00

9 Johnson Road, Darlaston, Wednesbury
3 Bed Mid Terraced, Ch & Dg.....£525.00

96 Bull Lane, West Bromwich B70 9PB
2 Bed End Terraced House.....£500.00

Flat 6, 63-65 Bustleholme Lane,
West Bromwich
2 Bed First Floor Flat, Ch, Dg.....£525.00

Flat 7 Manor Flats, High Street, Sedgley
2 Bed First Floor Flat, Dg, elec.....£450.00

Flat 7, 63-65 Bustleholme Lane,
West Bromwich
2 Bed 2nd Floor Flat, Ch, Dg. £525.00

Flat 9, 63-65 Bloxwich Road South, Willenhall
2 Bed Flat, Ch, Dg.....£495.00

Wolverhampton Street, Willenhall WV13 2PS
1 Bed 1st Floor Flat, Ch, Dg £450.00

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★ Front & Rear Gardens
★ Fitted Kitchen/Diner
£595pcm

Tipton — Devine Croft
★ New Build 3 Bed Semi with Garage
★ CornerPlot offereing Large Front & Rear Gardens
★ Large Conservatory
★ En-Suit to Master Bedrom
£650pcm

Rowley Regis — Royal Close
★ 3 Bed End Terrace with Driveway
★ New Kitchemn, New Carpets, Modern Decor
★ Utility Area, Study and Fully Tiled Bathroom
★ Availabe fron 27th November 2010
£600 pcm

Tividale — Princes Road
★ Refurbished 3 bed Semi with Off Road Parking to Front
★ Brand New High Spec Fitted Kitchen
★ New Carpets and Newly decorated
★ En-Suit Sink and Toilet Off Master Bedroom
£575pcm

Northfield — School Close
★ Fully Furnished Luxury 3 Bed Apartment
★ En-Suit To Master Bedroom
★ Allocated Secure Parking and Intercom Entry ★ Double Garage
£675 pcm

Smethwick — Bertram Road
★ Part Furnished 3 Bed End Terace
★ 2 Reception Rooms
★ Fitted Kitchen with Washing Machine and Cooker
★ 2 Double and 1 Single bedroom and back yard
£525 pcm

Erdington — St Thomas Road
★ Unfurnished 3-5 Bed Town House
★ 2 Reception Rooms Plus Dining Room
★ Luxury Fitted Kitchen, Rear Garden
★ Large Bedrooms plus unusual Attick Room
£595 pcm

West Bromwich — Whitgreave Street
★ Refurbished 3 Bed Town House
★ Rear Disabled Ramp Access
★ Downstairs Bedroom plus Wet Room
★ New Kitchen, New Carpets
£550 pcm

Wednesbury — Monarch Court
★ 2 Bed Ground Floor Apartment
★ Open Plan Living Area/Fitted Kitchen Kitchen with appliances
★ Allocated Secure Parking and Intercom Entry ★ 2 Double Bedrooms
£475pcm

City Centre — Chord Apartments, St Pauls Sq
★ Executive Fully Furnished Luxury 2 Bed Apartment
★ Fantastic Sought After Location on St Pauls Square
★ Concierge and Underground Parking
★ Storage Space and Integrated Appliances
£1,000 pcm

Edgbaston — Southfield Road
★ Furnished 2/3 Bed End Terrace
★ 2 Reception Rooms, Fitted Kitchen with Appliances
★ 2 Double Bedrooms Upstairs
★ Family Bathroom Upstairs
£550 pcm

Wednesbury — Stonehouse Crescent
★ 3 Bed Semi with Front Porch, Garage and Driveway
★ Large Front & Rear Gardens
★ 2 Reception Rooms
★ Large Bedrooms, Fitted Kitchen
£575 pcm

Walsall — Manorhouse Close
★ Unfurnished 3 Bed 3 Storey New Build Town House
★ Off Road Parking and Rear Garden
★ Downstairs w.c, En-Suit to Master Bedroom
★ Lovely Family Home, Modern and Well Presented
£675 pcm

City Centre — Jupiter Pioneer
★ Fully Furnished 1 Bed Studio
★ Excellent Location Off Broad Street
★ Block Benefits from Lift and CCTV
★ Available 25th November 2010
£550 pcm

Erdington — Gravelly Lane
★ Fully Furnished 2 bed Terrace
★ Excellent Location Close to Motorway Links
★ 2 Reception Rooms, Back yard
★ 2 Double bedrooms
£500 pcm

West Bromwich — Bank Street
★ New Build 4 Bed With Garage
★ Large Fitted Kitchen/Diner
★ Front & Rear Gardens
★ Executive Family Home, Close to Town Centre
£800 pcm

Great Barr — Tideswell Road
★ 3 Bed Semi with Driveway
★ Front Porch, Front & Rear Gardens
★ Currently Undergoing Refurbishment
★ Available End November 2010
£600 pcm

Oldbury — Kellner Gardens, Bromford Lane
★ Unfurnished 2 Bed Ground Floor Apartment
★ En-Suit to Master Bedroom
★ Modern & Well Presented with Neutral Decor
★ Available from 27th November 2010
£550 pcm

West Bromwich — Witton Lane
★ Unfurnished Groun Floor Maisonette
★ Communal Rear Gardens
★ Large Bedroom with Built in Wardrobes
★ Available from 25th November 2010
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MOTORING NEWS AND REVIEWS
CHRONICLE MOTORING
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Fiat embraces a greener future but still offers a rev-happy car which is fun to drive

Ultimate clean machine

FIAT'S award-winning new TwinAir concept is set to transform how drivers view petrol power's potential.

The technologically advanced low consumption 875cc two-cylinder engine is the cleanest quantity production petrol engine in the world. Yet it still manages to combine a rev-happy fun appeal with significantly more power than larger capacity four cylinder units.

The 85bhp version of the engine makes its UK debut this month under the bonnet of Fiat's iconic 500. Installing a two-cylinder engine in a Fiat 500 might seem like paying homage to the original 13 bhp model of 1957, but this decision is not primarily a sentimental one.

In complete compliance with the essential requirements of the 21st century car owner, the TwinAir engine offers an attractive means of downsizing while substantially reducing fuel consumption and exhaust emissions, but without sacrificing power or driver enjoyment.

Combined with the Fiat 500's many other attributes, this powertrain is expected to appeal to a wide variety of customers including many who may not have considered Fiat before.

Those who care about the environment will find the TwinAir's low CO2 figure appealing, as will owners who are keen to keep costs down.

And it should also find favour with trend setters, drivers interested in innovation and new technologies, and of course customers who enjoy dynamic and fun driving. Consequently more than a fifth of future Fiat 500 sales are forecast to be TwinAir versions.

The new 875cc TwinAir engine is expected to account for a fifth of Fiat 500 UK sales

500C cabrios have the new engine too

The interior is just as stylish as before

Weighing just 85kg, and with figures of 95g/km of CO2, this ground-breaking engine has the lowest emissions of any quantity production petrol engine.

However its 85bhp makes the Fiat 500 TwinAir among the most powerful mainstream A segment vehicles on sale.

And with its 145Nm of torque at a relatively low 1,900rpm, it's a responsive and fun-to-drive engine too. This combination of cleanliness and power even compares favourably with many rivals' diesel engines.

Improved

Compared with Fiat's best-selling 1.2-litre petrol engine in the Fiat 500, the TwinAir delivers 23 per cent more power yet combines this with a 15 per cent reduction in CO2 emissions and fuel consumption. These amazing results have been achieved thanks to a combination of factors. FPT's MultiAir technology, as employed by a 2010 International Engine of the Year winner, plays a major part in this by reducing consumption and emissions. Combining MultiAir with a turbocharger helps to optimise performance at low revs while reductions in weight and size help boost performance and responsiveness.

In addition, the timing chain drastically cuts engine running costs because it is maintenance-free. Finally, a balancing countershaft reduces vibrations to give the smoothness and refinement of a four-cylinder.

This technology comes in a Fiat 500 that is already firmly established on the motoring landscape. And it features all the assets that have made this car such a hit. There's a choice of slick-shifting manual change five-speed gearboxes alongside the Dualogic robotised manual. This allows drivers who want automatic shifting to prompt changes simply by pushing or pulling the gear lever.

There's an extensive list of standard equipment including the all-important safety suite of ABS anti-lock brakes and Electronic Brakeforce Distribution, which along with seven airbags, have helped the Fiat 500 become EuroNCAP crash safety five-star rated. There's also a wide-ranging options list and huge scope for owners to personalise their cars, as with other Fiat 500s. On top of that, every TwinAir-equipped Fiat 500 will feature Start&Stop and a Gear Shift Indicator to help drivers achieve the best economy possible. In addition, owners can specify Fiat's award-winning Blue&Me infotainment system which allows drivers to operate their music and phone via the car's steering wheel controls or with voice activation.

Blue&Me TomTom also includes Fiat's ground-breaking eco:Drive system to give real-time fuel consumption information and advice on how to get the best economy out of the Fiat 500. As well as offering a unique proposition of power with low CO2 emissions, the high-tech Fiat 500 TwinAir is extremely competitively priced, costing from £10,665 in Pop specification. The TwinAir engine will be available across the Fiat 500 and Fiat 500C ranges in all trim levels.

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VAUXHALL

Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO_2 emissions (g/km). Vauxhall range: Urban: 16.5 (17.1) – 61.4 (4.6), Extra-urban: 32.8 (8.6) – 88.3 (3.2), Combined: 24.2 (11.7) – 76.3 (3.7). CO_2emissions: 274 – 98g/km.

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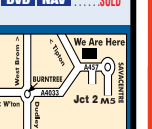

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7 year / 100,000 mile manufacturer's warranty. See your local dealer or visit www.kia.co.uk for full warranty terms and exclusions. Price correct at time of going to press and specification is subject to change without notice. Model shown is MY10 1.0 Picanto 1 @ £5,695 On The Road (OTR) including £1,500 trade-in allowance. OTR price includes VAT, number plates, delivery, 12 months' Government Vehicle Excise Duty (VED) and Vehicle First Registration Fee. Metallic / mica paint is available for an extra £395 charge. Retail customers only. Subject to availability on vehicles registered between 01 October and 30 November 2010. Offer is not available in conjunction with any other offer. Terms and conditions apply - please see your local dealer for full details.

CHRONICLE MOTORING

Skoda unveils new range of 4x4 models

A new four-wheel drive diesel version of the Octavia Estate, above, has been launched by Skoda

SKODA has announced a series of four-wheel drive versions for its popular Octavia and Superb ranges.

Building on its multi-award winning product line-up, the Czech firm will introduce a 4x4 2.0 TDI CR 140bhp engine with automatic DSG transmission to hatchback and estate versions of the Superb, Octavia Estate and Octavia Scout.

The advanced four-wheel drive system is designed to tackle those challenging conditions that would leave two-wheel drive competitors stranded.

Power distribution is controlled electronically by a fourth-generation Haldex clutch. Under normal traction conditions, 96 per cent of the total power is directed to the front axle.

In adverse weather conditions – similar to those experienced in the UK last winter – the Haldex system reacts in a split second to redirect power to those wheels with better traction, greatly increasing driving safety.

Consumption

The 4×4s capabilities aren't limited to wintry conditions. In summer months the 4×4 technology will ensure that towing caravans and trailers is easier and safer, and, because drive to the rear wheels is disengaged when not required, there's little adverse effect on fuel consumption.

The introduction of an automatic twin-clutch DSG gearbox to the existing 2.0 TDI CR 140bhp engine adds to Skoda's broad range of four-wheel drive cars which now includes Octavia Estate, Octavia Scout, Yeti, Superb hatch, and Superb Estate.

The Octavia Estate in 4x4 form is available to order from this month, with prices starting at £21,705 on the road.

Superb 4x4 prices start at £22,935 and range up to £26,705 for an Elegance 166 model.

BLOOMFIELD CAR SALES

57 RENAULT CLIO 1.5 DCi CAMPUS SPORT (DIESEL) 3-dr. Silver, Alloys, CD, AC, 22,000 miles
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55 VW GOLF 2.0 TDi GT (DIESEL) 3-dr, Black, Alloys, CD, AC, 62,000 miles
£7,495

58 Reg	FORD FIESTA 1.4 TCDi STYLE CLIMATE (Diesel) 5-dr. Black, CD, AC, 40,000 miles	£6,495
58 Reg	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.9 CDTi SRi COUPE (Diesel) (150), Black, Alloys, CD, AC, 27,000 miles	£9995
57 Reg	ALFA ROMEO BREVA 2.4 JTDM SV COUPE (Diesel) Silver. Alloys, CD, AC, Glass Roof, 27,000 miles	£12,995
57 Reg	JAGUAR X TYPE 2.2 D SOVEREIGN (Diesel) Gold, Alloys, CD, AC, Full Leather, Sat Nav, 77,000 miles	£10495
57 Reg	FORD C-MAX 1.8 TDCi V-TEC (Diesel) Met Blue, Alloys, CD, AC, 50,000 miles	£7995
57 Reg	BMW 318D ES TOURING ESTATE (Diesel) Black. Alloys, CD, AC, 87,000 miles	£8995
57 Reg	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.7 CDTi SRi (Diesel) Sportback 3-dr. Black, Alloys, CD, AC, 44,000 miles	£7995
57 Reg	VOLVO V50 1.6 D-S ESTATE (Diesel), Silver, Alloys, CD, AC, 60,000 miles	£8995
57 Reg	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4 CLUB Auto. Light Blue Metallic, AC, CD, EW, 12,000 miles	£6495
57 Reg	RENAULT CLIO 1.4 DYNAMIQUE 3-dr. Metallic Blue, Alloys, CD, AC, 32,000 miles	£5695
57 Reg	RENAULT CLIO 1.5 DCi CAMPUS SPORT 3-dr. (Diesel) Silver, Alloys, CD, AC, 22,000 miles	£5495
07 Reg	SAAB 9-3 1.9 VECTA SPORT TiD (Diesel) Metallic Grey. Alloys, CD, AC, Full Leather, 51,000 miles	£7995
07 Reg	VW TURAN 1.9 TDi SE (Diesel), 7 Seater, Grey Metallic, Alloys, CD, AC, 48,000 miles	£9995
07 Reg	CITROEN C4 1.6 HDi PICASSO VTR+ (Diesel) 7 seater, Silver, Alloys, CD, AC, 41,000 miles	£7995
07 Reg	CITROEN PICASSO 1.6 HDi VTX (Diesel) Blue, Alloys, CD, AC, 46,000 miles	£5995
07 Reg	PEUGEOT 207 1.6HDi GT (Diesel) 5-dr. Black, Alloys, CD, AC, Half Leather, Glass Roof, 42,000 miles	£7495
56 Reg	MERCEDES C180 KOMPRESSOR AVANTGARDE SE Black, Alloys, CD, AC, 1/2 leather, 56,000 miles	£10,995
06 Reg	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.8 DESIGN AUTO 5-door. Silver, Alloys, CD, AC, Half Leather, 24,000 miles	£5495
06 Reg	AUDI A6 2.0 TDi S-LINE Estate (Diesel), Metallic Grey, Alloys, CD, AC, 1/2 Leather, 70,000 miles	£12995
06 Reg	HYUNDAI TUCSON 2.0 GSi 5-door. Metallic Blue, Alloys, CD, AC, 32,000 miles	£5995
55 Reg	VW GOLF 2.0 TDi GT (Diesel) 3-dr. Black, Alloys, CD, AC, 62,000 miles	£7495
55 Reg	CITROEN PICASSO 1.6 HDi DESIRE (Diesel) (110) Silver, CD, AC, 39,000 miles	£5495
55 Reg	CITROEN PICASSO 1.6 HDi EXCLUSIVE (Diesel) Black, Alloys, CD, AC, Panoramic Glass Roof, 84,000 miles	£4495
55 Reg	VAUXHALL VECTRA 1.9 CDTi DESIGN (Diesel) Silver, Alloys, CD, AC, 1/2 leather, 64,000 miles	£5495
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53 Reg	HONDA HRV 1.6 V-TEC 4WD Silver, Alloys, CD, Air Con, 65,000 miles	£4495
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57 RegJAGUAR X-TYPE 2.2D SOVEREIGN (DIESEL), Gold, Alloys, CD, AC, Full Leather, Sat Nav. 77,000 miles
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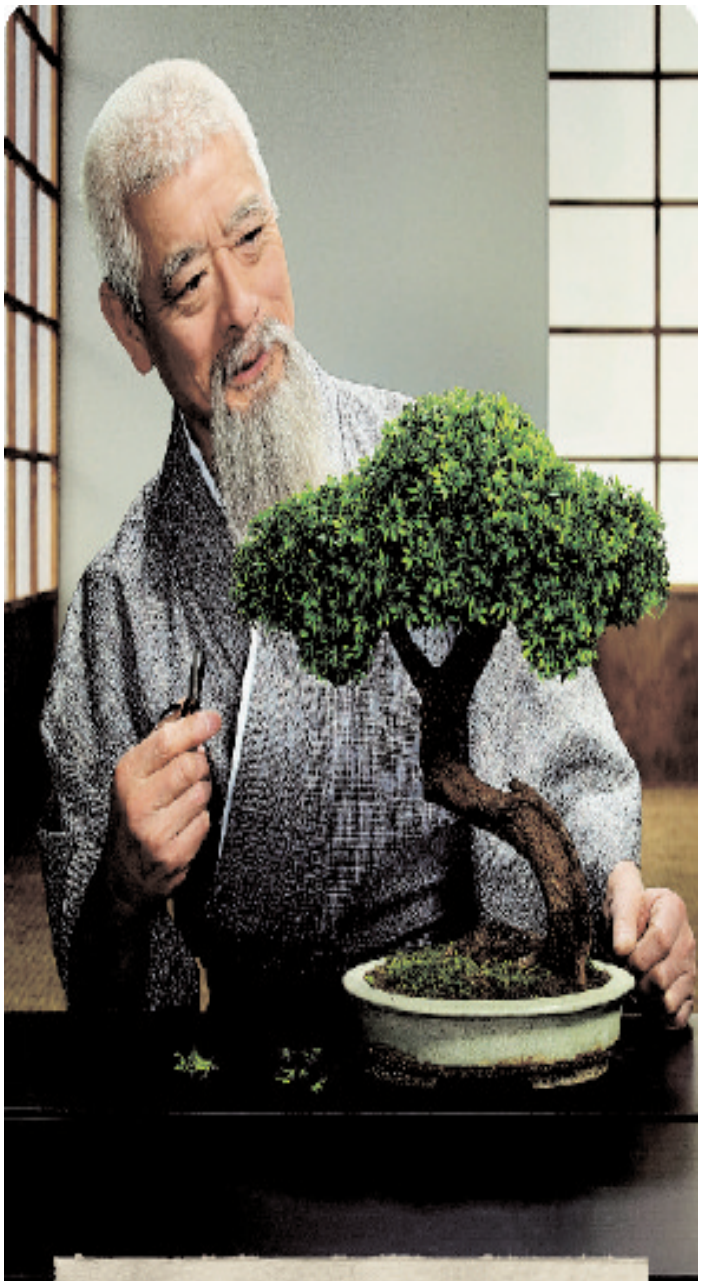

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Olympic hero at college as part of 2012 countdown

OLYMPIC athlete David Moorcroft was set to visit Sandwell College in Spon Lane, West Bromwich, yesterday (Wednesday).

The college has struck gold after becoming the first in the West Midlands to win Get Set Network status in the countdown to London 2012.

The world record-breaking runner was officially handing over a plaque to principal Val Bailey to mark the college winning a place in the network.

Get Set is the London 2012 education programme, set up for schools and colleges to demonstrate their commitment to the Olympic and Paralympic values of respect, friendship, equality, excellence, inspiration, courage and determination.

Staff and sports students have set up a Sports Champions project as part of their successful bid to be part of Get Set network.

The project aims to get Sandwell residents and students participating in sports and will see a double celebration in 2012 as the year of the Games coincides with their move to the new college in West Bromwich.

Up to eight volunteer champions will be encouraging staff, students and Sandwell residents to take part in sports and take pride in their community.

Albion

They will receive training from the college and from the Albion Foundation.

The champions project also aims to strengthen partnerships with the Primary Care Trust and the community.

Director of Student Services, Sally Box, said the college was delighted to be recognised by Get Set for its efforts and particularly looking forward to meeting David Moorcroft.

She said: "This award is particularly poignant to our college as we are due to move into a new campus in 2012, and are counting down to this, as well as to the Olympics.

"We are employing the Olympic and Paralympic values to encourage learners and staff to have pride in themselves, their college and the local community."

Moorcroft is remembered for his remarkable 1982 to 2010 World Record of 13:00.41 over 5,000m. He was awarded an MBE in 1983 and an OBE in 1998 for his services to British sport.

SPEEDWAY

Drury back with a two-year deal

GRAHAM Drury is staying with Birmingham Brummies Speedway team – eight days after leaving Perry Barr!

The popular co-promoter and team boss was told he wouldn't be handed a new contract but a mystery club sponsor has stepped forward to keep him at the club.

It's a move which is sure to delight and surprise the loyal band of Brummies fans who are keen to see the team challenge for the Premier League title after finishing third this year.

Drury said: "I've agreed a two year deal with Tony Mole (club owner). There has been a lot of negative stuff surrounding Birmingham of late but everything is now in place for us to move forward and take the club into an exciting year of racing. I want the fans, management and sponsors to be proud of the team and I'm already in talks with a couple of new signings."

Club owner Mole, who himself intended to retire from the sport last year, said he was thrilled to have his management team in place for the new season.

Positive

He said: "Everything about Birmingham Speedway is positive and it's all systems go for next season, which I am very excited about.

"I am delighted to be in a position to have Graham and Denise Drury in charge of the club once again, we have one of the sport's leading commercial managers in Joe McLaughlin, and Mick Bratley remains as a co-promoter with the purpose of trying to attract a new generation of fans for the club.

"We have one of the best venues in the sport at Perry Barr and I also feel our track is one of the best in the sport.

"We are going to provide a competitive team, hopefully with Jason Lyons staying on as skipper, and entertaining racing for the whole family.

"From now on it's all systems go for Birmingham Speedway to build up to the new season next March."

CYCLE SPEEDWAY

Roaring success

SANDWELL Lions enjoyed their afternoon at East Park Wolverhampton last weekend, with a win in both the first and second team matches.

Sandwell stars again were youngsters Matt Smith, Ricki Johnson, and Tom Haddock, while Lee Aris top scored for the Wolves with Luke Draisey giving him good backing.

Division 1

East Park (81): Lee Aris 19, Luke Draisey 16, Liam Johnson-Rich 11, Steve Guy 9, Danny Garner 8, Tara Warren 8, Jamie Burke 5, Jamie Wetton 5.

Sandwell (97): Matt Smith 18, Ricki Johnson 17, Tom Haddock 15, Phil Hemming 13, Lee Smith 12, Jim Palmer 11, Matt Haddock 9, Jack Rowley 2.

Division 2

East Park (55): Danny Garner 15, Liam Johnson-Rich 14, Jamie Wetton 9, Brandon Wetton 7, Josh Wetton 4, Stuart Benley 3, Joe Guy 3.

Sandwell (79): Ricki Johnson 15, Lee Smith 15, Jim Palmer 14, Josh Hill 10, Phil Hemming 10, Jack Rowley 10.

Tipton bow out in Cup cruise

CARLISLE.....6
TIPTON 0

TIPTON knew they had hit the big time when Tom Cruise turned up.

And while their first-round clash turned out to be Mission Impossible, the proud part-timers had a day to remember to end their epic FA Cup saga.

Young Arsenal full-back Cruise – a namesake of the Hollywood star – joined League One Carlisle on loan just in time to add another slice of glitz to Tipton's fairytale day.

And the Gunners' teenager produced a performance laced with the kind of assurance and quality that ultimately proved too much for John Hill's game non-leaguers on their debut in the first round proper.

Gary Madine struck four goals to take his season's tally to 11 and Town were 4-0 down inside 19 minutes, yet even a ruthless first-half barrage from the Cumbrians could not ruin the Midland Alliance club's day in the sun.

Five unanswered goals before the interval left a temporary dent in the pride of Hill's shell-shocked side. But a stout display after the break restricted the full-timers to just one more moment of success and ensured the boys from the Black Country would depart Brunton Park with a fresh injection of positivity to fuel their League One promotion campaign that has started so impressively.

In truth, Hill's men were guaranteed to be Saturday's winners before they had placed a stud in Cumbrian soil, having battled through nine previous matches to earn their moment in the FA Cup limelight.

So, while the scale of their defeat would have stung even the most philosophical underdog, they were always certain to leave the stage with their reputations intact.

The warm ovation they received from the home crowd, most of whom stayed behind to show their appreciation, was proof that Town had made a new army of friends in defeat.

They arrived at Brunton Park having tasted briefly the trappings of success with an overnight Lake District stop-over and a luxury coach journey delivering them in high spirits.

When the action got going, however, the romance of the occasion lasted for just six minutes before the gulf between the teams hit home with the opening goal.

Town centre-back Dan Parker stumbled as he attempted to clear Madine's flick-on and Francois Zoko showed no mercy, sending a precise lob over advancing keeper Matt Sargeant and into the net.

That was a harsh reminder of the scale of their task and increased fears of a hammering from a team six divisions above them in football's pyramid.

Any hopes that the opener might be a fluke were ended just three minutes later when the ruthless hosts cashed in on more hesitant defending to double their lead and end the game as a contest before it had properly begun.

This time the visitors found it impossible to escape their own area and eventually Ben Marshall's low cross was turned in from a yard out by Madine.

Fans

Tipton's 374 travelling fans light-heartedly sang predictions of a 3-2 victory, yet they knew the game was already up and it got worse on 12 minutes with the simplest of third goals.

A right-wing corner from James Berrett found Madine unmarked and he planted home a solid header.

Another Berrett corner on 19 minutes yielded the fourth Carlisle goal and had statisticians reaching for record books to research the FA Cup's highest scorelines.

Ross Brown cleared off the line direct from the flag-kick, only for Zoko to connect with a volley that made its way through a crowd and past Sargeant.

Yet it was 22 minutes before the lead was extended further with the completion of Madine's hat-trick, the powerful centre-forward seeing a shot deflected in from inside the box after another goalline clearance from a corner.

Tipton fans must have feared the worst for the second half but their team emerged with a new urgency and conviction and, while they never wrestled control from Carlisle, they made life difficult. And they had half-chances, too, substitute Cameron Jones sending a cheeky chip fractionally wide and miscuing another shot, and Jozsef Jakab's near-post flick from a rare corner just evading Parker in the goalmouth.

Not until the 83rd minute did Madine add the sixth, turning in a low cross from Craig Curran.

By then, Tipton's second-half objectives had been attained. They had avoided embarrassment, restored spirit and retained respectability. All that remained was to count their winnings, cherish their memories and focus on a brighter future.

Tipton keeper Matt Sargeant salutes the visiting support

Peter Murphy challenges Town skipper Danny Bragoli

How they rated...

TIPTON TOWN (4-4-1-1)

Matt Sargeant
One or two nervy handling moments for the keeper, but also made a series of fine saves, especially in the second half. 7/10

John Hill
The manager's son gave a decent defensive display, first at right-back and later at centre-half, and kept Carlisle wideman Robson relatively quiet. 7/10

Dan Parker
Unfortunate that early jitters proved costly but he recovered to give an all-action second-half display. Nearly scored. 6/10

Steve Palmer
The veteran centre-back only lasted until half-time and had a mixed 45 minutes, but made one expertly-timed sliding tackle. 6/10

Ross Brown
Like most of his team-mates, the left-back started nervously but grew into the game. 6/10

Eric Bowen
Kept relatively quiet on the right wing in the first half but performed excellently when he moved to right-back after the interval. 7/10

Leon Jackson
Found the going tough early on as Carlisle bossed the midfield but found his feet a little before making way at half-time. 6/10

David Bate
Worked hard trying to protect his defenders and produced a couple of excellent long-range passes during a decent afternoon. 7/10

Ricky Baker
Worked extremely hard down the left, showed decent movement and was unlucky with some marginal offside calls. 6/10

Danny Bragoli
The skipper worked his socks off in the heart of midfield despite a sore knee, but never got chance to show his attacking prowess. 6/10

Danny Campbell
The prolific striker made a couple of testing runs and showed some neat touches but was largely starved of service. 6/10

Substitutes

Ryan Mosedale (for Palmer, HT) Injected extra attacking zest wide on the right and produced some excellent crosses. 7/10

Cameron Jones (for Jackson, HT) Provided Campbell with some welcome support up front, held the ball up intelligently and had a couple of half-chances. 7/10

Jozsef Jakab (for Campbell, 76 minutes) Showed composure to set up a goalscoring chance.

Not used: N. Campbell, Whyte, Forrest, Thornton.

CARLISLE (4-3-3): Collin; Simek, Murphy, Chester, Cruise; Marshall, Taiwo (Hurst, 65), Berrett; Zoko (Curran, HT), Madine, Robson (McKenna, HT).

Not used: Kane, Cook, Caig, Swinglehurst.

REFEREE: Andy Madley (West Yorkshire)

Att: 4,241 (374 Tipton fans)

Table-topping Tividale are pushed all the way for victory

DUDLEY SPORTS 0 TIVIDALE 2

WEST Midlands Premier leaders Tividale continued their unbeaten run with a hard-fought victory over a well organised and hard working Dudley Sports side.

The game was not one for the purist and both sides struggled to play good football on a poor playing surface.

Sports began the game brightly and set out from the off to upset the visitors' passing game by defending with a high line and playing the ball to their wingers to counter attack down the flanks.

The tactics worked well for the first 45 minutes when veteran defender Mark Bache organised the home side's back four into a very effective unit and ex-Tividale forward Anthony Cox always looked dangerous on the break against his old team-mates.

In a dour and dull first half in difficult conditions, the visitors struggled to get any fluency into their play and struggled to create any real opportunities.

The second half began with a flurry of goalmouth action and a tactical change by the league leaders paid dividends. Tividale abandoned their usual one touch passing game by using the better ground down the flanks and putting in early crosses.

This change worked well and a Kyle Hill cross was headed back across the goal by Brett Clark for the excellent Matt Salmon to head home from close range on 60 minutes.

A short while later Tividale had a great chance to extend their lead but spurned a great opportunity when Chris Russell missed from the spot after they were awarded what appeared to be a very soft penalty for hand ball.

But they did put the game beyond a spirited home side 10 minutes later when a Robert Blair cross was only cleared to the edge of the penalty box by the Dudley Sports defence and Adam Hill drilled home the second goal for the visitors.

PENNCROFT 1 BLACKHEATH 4

CROFT took the lead on 12 minutes with Earl Grant side-footing home after a mistake in the Town defence.

Ryan Smyth put the visitors level siox minuets later with a neat finish past Dave Chapman. Stuart Hensman put Blackheath in front with a super run and strike on 39 minutes.

The hosts had a lot of second-half possession but Nathan Phillips and substitute Cordell Jones added further goals for Blackheath.

Lee Chilton gets past a Dudley Sports defender

CRADLEY 2 BUSTLEHOLME 4

BUSTLEHOLME are up to fourth in the West Midlands Premier after winning an exciting game.

Sean Williams put Cradley in front from 20 yards but the visitors hit back through Adam Wattley in the 40th minute and took the lead with a Ryan Trumpeter 25-yarder just after the break.

Williams equalised five minutes later but Chris Wattley regained the lead for Bustleholme in the 75th minute and Matt Jukes accepted a pass from Jamie Clews to hit the clinching goal.

BC RANGERS 4 BILSTON TOWN 3

BLACK Country Rangers came from two goals down to clinch victory in a game Bilston dominated for the first hour.

Town took the game to Rangers from the start and only a poor final touch stopped them going ahead in the third minute.

After a couple of early scares Bilston took control, with Phil Gayle and Godwill Moraka combining well in midfield, and Lee Knight moving forward from the back, while the central defensive pairing of Chad McCormack and Lee Salmon dominated in the air.

For all their good approach play through midfield, and the wide attacking combination of Knight and Kieron Clarke, Bilston were unable to find the net, while for Rangers Richard Bayley and Kevin Hadlington looked to pose a threat coming through from midfield.

By half-time Bilston should have established a substantial lead but at the break the teams were all-square.

Bilston's breakthrough came five minutes after the restart when excellent work on the right saw Clarke play the ball through to Gayle, who beat three defenders to fire in hard and low to give Jamie Wood in the Rangers' goal no chance.

Rangers started to come back into the game but Bilston extended their lead on 62 minutes when Clarke broke down the right, cut infield and hit the ball from the narrowest of angles in off the far post.

Rangers rallied and took control of the game, launching a series of attacks and on 65 minutes pulled a goal back from a disputed corner. Taking control of midfield they continued to go in search of the equaliser, which came on 75 minutes from a goalmouth scramble which Bilston failed to clear.

And, as more pressure was applied, an attack down the right saw Rangers hit their third.

Bilston started to rally and new signing Leroy Davison picked up the ball from a clearance out of defence, turned and hit the ball low into the net.

With the game heading towards a draw, Bilston again lost possession and with two minutes left a run and shot saw Rangers take all three points.

Youthful Villa offer hope for the future

Villa winger Marc Albrighton lets fly to fire Gerard Houllier's men into the lead at Craven Cottage

IT JUST had to be a big Norwegian who ruined Gerard Houllier's day.

With John Carew the main topic of discussion before and after Saturday's Craven Cottage clash, who else but the Villa striker's close friend and Norway team-mate Brede Hangeland to deny Villa a first Premier League win in five with seconds to spare deep into added time.

All in all, it added up to an exasperating afternoon for the claret and blue chief after his young side delivered a performance to be proud of.

Although the outcome was the same as last weekend's against Blues, the performance was worlds apart.

Insipid, ineffective and devoid of ideas in their Villa Park derby draw, they were determined, dangerous and at times dazzling at Craven Cottage.

And given the fact such an

FULHAM 1
VILLA 1

encouraging display was achieved with four academy products all 21 or under – Barry Bannan, Marc Albrighton, Ciaran Clark and Nathan Delfouneso – it was all the more impressive.

All that was missing was the result and that, as the youngsters' dejected faces conveyed as they trudged off the pitch, had been agonisingly within their grasp.

On paper, Villa's away form is a major concern but, just as was the case against Sunderland and Stoke, they headed home with less than they deserved.

What they need quickly, though, is a result after once again paying for their profligacy.

Performances are all well and good and, of course, Houllier needs time for his new style to diffuse into the dressing room, but this is a results-based business.

Victory over Blackpool on Wednesday is a must with a daunting run of games against Manchester United, Arsenal and Houllier's old employers Liverpool just around the corner.

They can ill-afford any more injuries, too, with Nigel Reo-Coker's making it six first-team players – Carew, Emile Heskey, Stiliyan Petrov, Fabian Delph and Gabby Agbonlahor – all sidelined. Any club which lost more than £25m worth of talent would feel the pinch but, with one of the smallest squads in the top flight, Villa will feel what can only be described as an injury crisis more than most.

Certainly, resources are severely stretched and Villa are at least fortunate they can call on their hugely promising young players.

While they found themselves under the cosh against the Cottagers in the early stages, the arrival of Clark for the injured Reo-Coker coincided with the game swinging in their favour.

He and Bannan were both superb in the middle of the park – Clark's energy and tough tackling complementing the Scot's stunning passing range and vision which clearly fits into the style Houllier is so keen to promote – and before long Villa had their lead.

Albrighton looked sharp and eager to impress on his return from suspension and took his goal brilliantly, while Delfouneso, ploughing a lone furrow up front, got himself into dangerous positions and made a nuisance of himself.

Transitional

Clearly, this is a transitional period for the claret and blues and if that quartet are set to play a key part in their future, then Carew is increasingly beginning to look part of the club's past.

Houllier has shown who is boss at Villa Park this last week having followed up his criticism of Stephen Ireland by laying down the law to Carew.

Carew's decision to contact his native Norwegian press to hit out at Houllier was nothing but ill-advised after the Frenchman, in last week's local newspapers briefing, said the future of the striker, who is out of contract in the summer, lies in his own hands.

It was hardly anything antagonising from the Villa boss but having sold him before at Lyon, it was already clear he had his reservations about the enigmatic forward, who has always carried a reputation for blowing hot and cold.

This season it has sadly been the latter. His four-year stay in the Midlands is as long as anywhere he has remained in his career, which might tell you something.

In his outburst he accused Houllier of showing both him and the fans who adore him disrespect. But that was nothing compared to the response it drew from Houllier post-match on Saturday, labelling him "stupid" and "living in the past".

Already ruled out for the next month, the Holte End hero has surely played his last game for the Villans.

Carew's injury opened the door to Delfouneso who, along with Bannan, made his first Premier League start, while Albrighton returned from suspension.

Two of those players quickly combined to create Villa's first chance when a Bannan header sent Albrighton on the charge down the right, he picked out the unmarked Downing but his shot was well blocked by Carlos Salcido.

Ex-Albion star Zoltan Gera spurned a glorious opening three minutes later when he volleyed over after Clint Dempsey's shot had been saved superbly with his legs by Brad Friedel.

Villa's recent injury curse struck again when Reo-Coker was forced off on 34 when he landed awkwardly after challenging Gera for a high ball.

But misery soon became joy when Villa's Premier League goal drought finally ended in the 42nd minute.

It was 386 minutes since Albrighton scored their last top-flight goal, ironically also in London at Tottenham's White Hart Lane, and he struck with a superb strike, latching onto Bannan's glorious 60-yard pass before checking inside and coolly curling the ball into the far corner.

If a tad fortunate to go in ahead at the break, Villa looked good value for their lead in the second half, minimising the threat of Mark Hughes' men.

It took one outstanding, smothering save from Friedel to deny substitute Andy Johnson when he went clean through after 82 minutes while Ashley Young wasted two golden opportunities to kill the game off for good in added time.

And how Villa paid the price when Hangeland rose highest to head home the equaliser from Damien Duff's free-kick.

Nothing will quite go for them at the moment.

And the last thing they need is the visit of Blackpool last night (Wednesday), for no one enjoys sticking one to the big boys more than Ian Holloway.

Chris Baird and Villa's Nathan Delfouneso battle for the ball

TALKING POINT

VILLA'S SECRET WEAPONS: Villa might be in the midst of an injury crisis but, encouragingly, the signs are they can cope after their 'secret weapons', their youngsters, did them proud. Barry Bannan, Marc Albrighton, Ciaran Clark and Nathan Delfouneso might all be 21 or under but they looked at home in the Premier League. The quartet not only ran their socks off but showed plenty of quality, too.

Next two games...

MAN UTD (H) NOV 13
Villa will be determined to gain revenge for their Carling Cup final defeat in what is always one of the biggest games of the season at Villa Park.

BLACKBURN (A) NOV 21
Ewood Park is traditionally a difficult place to go with Sam Allardyce's team always guaranteed to make life difficult for their visitors.

StreetGames bid to boost sport at the grass roots

A NEW community project is coming to Sandwell offering sports training to youngsters from disadvantaged communities.

StreetGames, a national charity launched in 2007 to develop sport in poor areas, has announced it will spend £2,000 in setting up grass roots sports sessions around Sandwell.

Sandwell Leisure Trust has teamed up with the award-winning charity to ensure young people across Sandwell are given the best chance possible to participate regularly in sport.

StreetGames Legacy Leaders programme has been granted the Inspire Mark by the London Organising Committee for the Olympic and Paralympic Games, and their partnership with Sandwell Leisure Trust will ensure young people from the area will be able to benefit from the Olympic Games' legacy.

Parks

Sandwell Leisure Trust will provide the StreetGames sessions, which will run in parks and will include football, basketball, cricket and rounders.

The trust will also introduce The Co-operative StreetGames Young Volunteers scheme, which allows 16 to 25-year-olds to gain sports qualifications while volunteering at its projects.

To find out more about StreetGames, visit www.streetgames.org or email info@streetgames.org.

Front Lisa Rashid, Physical Activity Development Officer at Tipton) for Sandwell Leisure Trust and Kimberley Clark, West Midlands Street Cheer Coordinator for StreetGames

Sandwell strikers aim to impress on Rooney TV show

Smethwick striker Craig Beresford with Wayne Rooney

TWO Sandwell footballers could be about to hit the big time after winning through to a televised competition hosted by England and Manchester United striker Wayne Rooney.

Coke Zero Street Striker kicks off on Sky One this Sunday (November 14), with Craig Beresford and Alando Lewis as two of 20 hopefuls from around the UK hoping to win a once in a lifetime opportunity to play at the home of Boca Juniors in Argentina.

The pair have already beaten competition from thousands of entrants and will now take part in a series of street football challenges, including the show's infamous tyre challenge, to decide the victor.

Craig, aged 23 from Smethwick, was spotted at open trials in Birmingham and is labelled as this year's most fashion conscious competitor, keen to move away from the unkempt images of footballers.

"This is a once in a lifetime opportunity for me –you never know when you might get a chance like this again," he said.

"I'm a really competitive person. It's all about winning for everyone and I'm here to show Wayne what I can do and hopefully go for in the competition."

Seventeen-year-old Tipton footballer Alando, 17, was once awarded a scholarship at West Bromwich Albion.

He said: "People judge you on the things that you've done, not the things you say you're going to do. Being on Coke Zero Street Striker is a great opportunity for me because winning the show would mean that everyone in England and across the world would know about my talent."

Over the past three years the show has attracted tens of thousands of young hopefuls, all vying for their chance to show off their skills to Wayne Rooney.

This year the show has been expanded with a broader age range of 16 to 24 and new challenges.

The first of four weekly televised shows starts at 7pm on Sunday.

Below: Tipton teenager Alando Lewis with Wayne Rooney

thechronicle

sport

TIPTON TOWN CUP RUN IS HALTED BY LOAN STAR Page 66

LOCAL LADS AIM TO IMPRESS ON ROONEY'S SKY TV SHOW Page 67

Miller eyes loan away from Albion

ALBION striker Ishmael Miller this week confirmed he is ready to leave The Hawthorns on loan in a bid to step up his search for full fitness.

The injury-jinxed striker is willing to consider a temporary stint in the Championship to ensure he is fit to play a part later in the Baggies' Premier League campaign.

Miller made his first league appearance in almost three months when he played as a substitute against Manchester City on Sunday but boss Roberto Di Matteo has already revealed he could send the former City hitman on loan to help his rehabilitation from his latest setback, a thigh injury.

"We've not had a chat since I've returned but it was my view that I need to go somewhere just to get some football and play some games so I can be fit and ready for West Brom," said Miller.

Match fit

"We're doing well this season and hopefully we can keep that up. A few clubs have been suggested and the main thing for me is to get fit in training and if I need to go out on loan to get match fit then so be it.

"I enjoy the club, I love the camaraderie with the other lads and we've been doing well, but I appreciate that I could be getting fit with regular football elsewhere, playing five or six games in a month. If that's an option, and I can come back 100 per cent fit, then I have to think about it."

Miller has spent much of the last two years on the sidelines with two cruciate ligament injuries and his latest thigh problem.

He was given a warm welcome when he returned against his former club on Sunday.

"It feels great to be back," he added. "It was a bad day for us on Sunday, our first home defeat, and I think we accept that we didn't play well."

"But the game at Blackpool on Monday took something out of us but hopefully we can restore our form as soon as possible.

"I've had bad luck but that's football. And hopefully it's the end of my bad luck.

"I feel confident and believe I can get my form back as soon as possible."

Captain Carson issues a warning

SKIPPER Scott Carson has warned Albion not to waste their flying start to the Premier League season after they slipped to a second straight defeat.

They were beaten for the second time in a week on Sunday as Manchester City won 2-0 to inflict the Baggies' first home league defeat in 11 months.

And Carson warned his side their best ever start to a Premier League campaign could quickly wash away if they failed to collect points at West Ham on last night (Wednesday) or at Wigan on Saturday.

"We know we need to get something," said Carson. "We've had two successive losses, something we've not had before and something we're not used to.

Dragged

"We need to get our heads around things quickly.

"The middle section of the league table is very tight. We're only a couple of losses away from being dragged back into the mix at the bottom and we don't want that to happen.

"Even when we've won, we've kept our feet on the ground and always looked to the next game. We need to do that with defeats too.

Carson admitted playing more than an hour with a two-man disadvantage at Bloomfield Road might have played a part in the Baggies' lethargic first-half display. The England shot-stopper said: "We made it more difficult than we should have.

"We stood back and gave them too much respect."

Albion keeper Scott Carson scampers towards the ball but can't prevent Mario Balotelli opening the scoring for Manchester City. Picture: Ed Bagnall

Super Mario kills off Albion hopes

DEFEAT was hardly a disaster.

But the manner of Albion's loss to the world's richest club was a stark lesson in top-flight reality for Roberto Di Matteo's men.

The admirable traits that have propelled the Baggies to their best Premier League start are the only ingredients that will keep the bandwagon rolling.

And Manchester City's cast of megastars pressed home the point at The Hawthorns on Sunday.

Di Matteo and Co proved beyond doubt in the opening 10 matches of their latest top-division adventure that, when firing on all cylinders, they can finally compete in the world's most unforgiving domestic league.

Sunday's chastening defeat to the unpredictable moneybags from the north west was a clear reminder that they can still come unstuck if they allow their standards to slip.

Below-par

Just 45 minutes of below-par endeavour from the Baggies was all it took for the die to be cast on their second defeat of the week.

And a much-improved second-half display was not enough to undo the damage from the baffling first-half showing that handed under-pressure City the points.

Such is the talent at Roberto Mancini's disposal that his absurdly rich City side might have put the Baggies to the sword in any event.

Di Matteo's frustration as he departed The Hawthorns on Sunday night was born from the knowledge that his side had not made their visitors work for their rewards.

The proud unbeaten home league record that stretched back to January was never destined to last the season in the tough environs of the Premier League.

ALBION 0
MAN CITY 2

But the Baggies would have liked to surrender it in more gallant fashion.

Whether it was sapping effects of the previous Monday's bizarre night at Blackpool, a hint of complacency or simply a bad day at the office that was to blame, the result was the same.

The Baggies' pressing that so unsettled Arsenal and Manchester United was missing, City were allowed to play and the hosts were made to pay.

Albion had made a decent start but there was a strangely lethargic nature to the defending that handed City the softest of leads on 20 minutes.

The hosts failed to apply the requisite pressure in midfield, allowing David Silva too much space to execute a fine reverse ball for Carlos Tevez in the box.

The striker burst to the byline before angling a cross through the legs of the sliding Gabriel Tamas for Mario Balotelli to steal in at the far post and slide home a simple finish.

The concession of the opening goal failed to stir the Baggies and, had Scott Carson not stood up strongly to save from Silva after another simple City move, it would have been two goals in three minutes.

It was, however, two in four, as Silva's lofted ball found Balotelli, who was played onside by Nicky Shorey. He failed to control at the first time of asking but outmuscled Tamas to claim it at the second attempt and find the bottom corner.

The rest of the first half passed off without any obvious sign of a Baggies response, leaving The Hawthorns with the type of half-time flat feeling rarely felt this season.

Thankfully the Baggies emerged from their half-time discussions with an injection of fresh urgency, although it was the visitors who had the first sight of goal.

Gareth Barry's clever ball was aimed towards full-back Jerome Boateng but Carson reacted well to reach it first.

And the Baggies were agonisingly close to a lifeline just before the hour-mark when Simon Cox's drive bent away from the diving Joe Hart and crashed against his left-hand post.

The Baggies introduced Giles Barnes and Peter Odemwingie in an attempt to engineer a rescue and their hopes increased when Balotelli, who had earlier been booked, was shown a straight red card for kicking out during a grapple with Youssouf Mulumbu.

Pressure

And Di Matteo's men were painfully close to a goal when Chris Brunt's corner was headed towards his own net by Yaya Toure but Silva cleared off the line.

The Baggies used their extra man to exert plenty of pressure with Odemwingie's pace especially threatening.

But Mulumbu, who had been booked for his role in the Balotelli clash, flew in on Tevez to earn a second yellow card and kill off any hope of a fightback.

At least the rousing efforts in search of a goal in the final half-hour sent the Hawthorns faithful and the Baggies players home with a positive final image of a disappointing day.

And, if the effects of the earlier lapses ensure they are not repeated any time soon, defeat might yet be a price worth paying.

Last night (Wednesday) Albion were in East London to take on a West Ham side that have found a semblance of form recently.

TALKING POINT

HOW FAR CAN MANCHESTER CITY GO? On a day when Chelsea were defeated and City claimed victory, it was impossible not to wonder whether Roberto Mancini's bunch of big earners can be the Londoners' main title challengers. But in truth, events at The Hawthorns offered few answers. In fact it simply repeated the same old questions.

The quality of David Silva and the ruthlessness of the otherwise petulant and frustrating Mario Balotelli provided a reminder of the class that should propel them into the title race. But more heated on-field exchanges between players and periods of uncertain defending suggested things are still not entirely right at Eastlands.

Next two games...

WIGAN (A) NOV 13

Paul Scharner returns to the DW Stadium for what the Baggies will view as a second 'winnable' away Premier game in a week.

STOKE (H) NOV 20

Albion's famous hoodoo against the Potters will be tested again but they will not have a better chance of ending that record.

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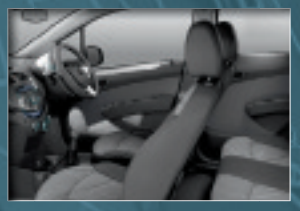

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